

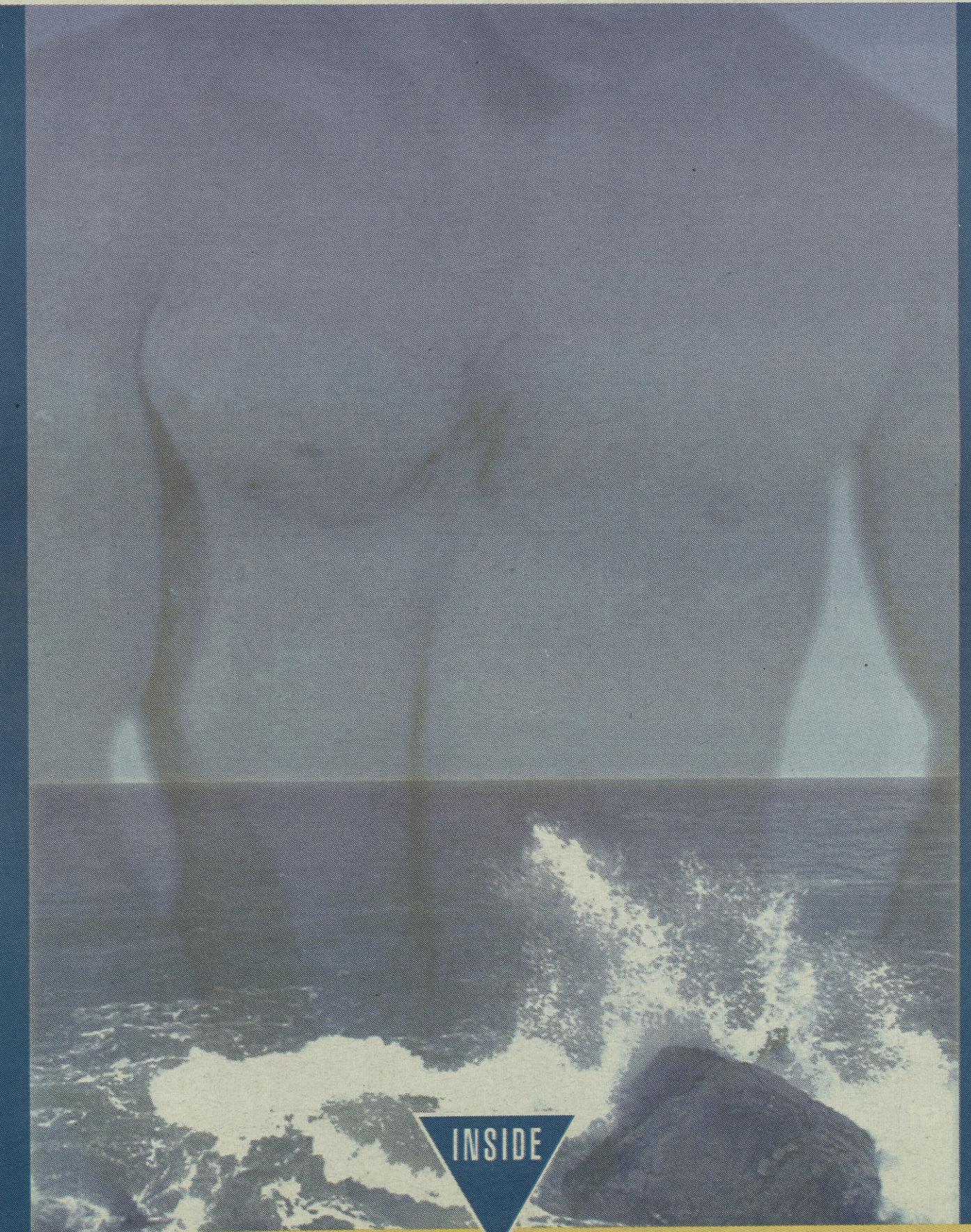
Newsmagazine of California's Gay Community and Its Friends

MEN'S ISSUE

mid-march  
ninety-five

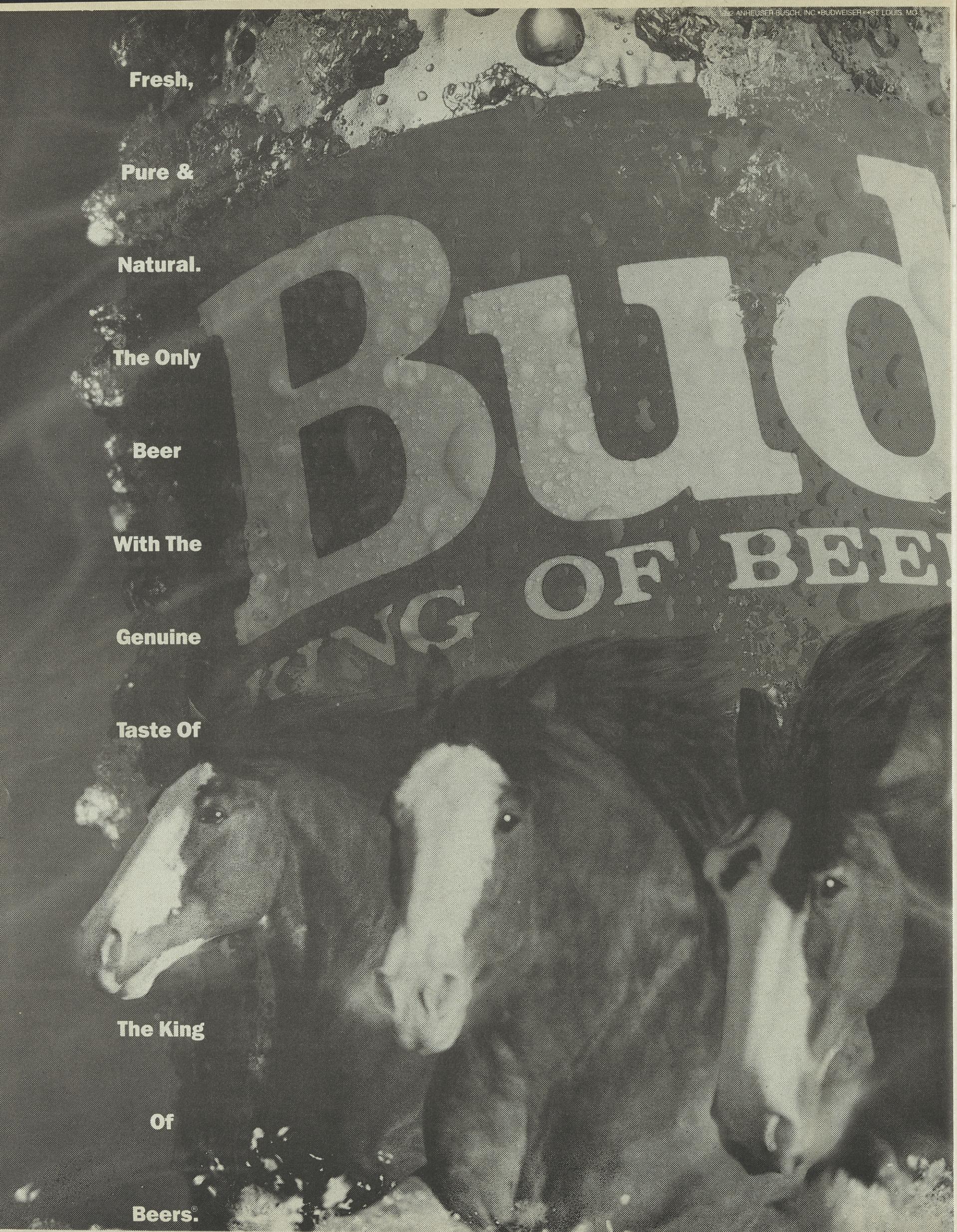
volume six  
issue eleven

issue  
the latest



COVER DESIGN/PHOTOCOLLAGE: ANDY MARKLEY—ART 101

POLITICAL MEN! WORKING MEN! PLAYING MEN! PLUS: MORE MEN!



# Desperately Seeking Adonis in the Gay Personal Ads

by Michael R. Gorman

I have been compared to a hobbit. When a man calls me "cute" it's never in that breathy tone used to pronounce the word in reference to the Diet Coke construction guy. (Lucky something is his name.) With me it's "cute" as in "I'm about to pinch your cheek."

And I've been told that, "I like older men" is a compliment, though it doesn't feel that way most of the time. So before you accuse me of having an ulterior motive for this column, I concede that possibility. That, however, doesn't mean I'm not right, or that I don't have a right to be a little miffed. So be warned. This may not be pretty. Speaking of classified ads...

**STRAIGHT ACTING GWM**, 25, 6', 180 lbs, bln/blu, very handsome and blessed UB2, not into gay scene, seeks GM 18-25 for friendship or possible relationship, No fats, femmes, flakes, or barflies, prfssnl a+, HIV- only, White only, Discreet, Call 90210.

You can find a million ads around the country in print at this precise moment that look very much like this ad. I was bored and flipping through a local paper that is not this one, and I landed in the classifieds. Okay, I'm single. I dream about prince charming. I started reading. Instead of visualizing the newsprint hunks splayed before me, I found myself fuming over the tone of so many of the ads. So I wrote about it. (Some men drink. I write.) Here then is my unabridged version of the ad above:

"Okay, how am I going to word this ad so that I attract the man of my dreams? Let's see. What do I want? I guess I'll start with STRAIGHT ACTING because, well, just because I'm gay doesn't mean I have to act like a girl! Not that there's anything wrong with girls; it's just that a man acting like one is bad. Feminine movements, vocal intonations, walk, feelings, values, you know. I mean, what cool boy ever pretended to be Joan of Arc? No, gotta avoid that female stuff. Everybody says so. Not that I'm buying into society's sexism. I am gay after all. If that's not enough, well . . . anyway.

"GWM. No getting around that, I suppose.

25. God, I'm getting old! 26 next month. Glad I'm placing the ad now. 180 LBS. Well, it's not like they're going to put you on a scale like in P.E. or something! You can pass for 180. If you haven't weighed yourself lately, it can't be a lie. Estimate. Yeah. Estimated weight 180. Oh god, the pressure!

"DSHWTR BLND/HZL . . . BLN/BLU . . . Note: buy some Sun-In. Wear a blue shirt.

"VERY HANDSOME. It's not so much that I am as that I have to be, if I'm going to get a handsome man to respond that is. Just because I'm gay doesn't mean I'm not a man. I want something pretty on my arm like any other guy would. So what? Besides, I'm handsome enough. It's a matter of taste. What would people think if I went out with a troll? Probably that I had a small penis or something.

"Oh yeah. BLESSED. Big penises are like a prize, you know, a catch, a trophy. And they're, you know, masculine and stuff. A sign of manhood. How else would you define manhood? I mean, come on! And I want a real man. Like me. Anyone who says it doesn't matter is lying. Everybody says so. I hope I don't get one of those twelve inch freaks. Ouch! Maybe I should leave this out. No, don't wimp out. Society already hates you for being gay. Why compound the problem by being a sissy? BLESSED.

"NOT INTO GAY SCENE. That's all I need is some ACT-UP or LIFE LOBBY type dragging me out to the Gay Community Center or some

continued on 4

# I MUST SAY!

## Thanks to Positive Gourmet

Dear Editor,

I have full-blown AIDS since May of last year and went steadily downhill after two episodes of PCP (pneumonia). My weight dropped to 115 pounds on my 5'9" frame.

Today I weigh 145, thanks in large part to Thomas Vasques of the Positive Gourmet Food Services. I had met Thomas at a reception for a mutual friend who had just passed away. He gave me his card and told me of the many services his organization offers to people living with AIDS such as providing food, free haircuts, and transportation, to name a few. Two months ago Thomas started providing to me free a liquid nutrient called Sustacal, which is normally a very expensive product. My doctor also prescribed a drug called Marinol, which whets one's appetite.

Two months ago I had given away my bicycle and exercise equipment, thinking that I would no longer be able to use them. Now, I'm back using push up bars and doing sit-ups. My goal is to put on another five pounds and stabilize at 150. I cannot express my gratitude enough to Thomas Vasques and his devoted volunteers. Everyone in the gay community should know of his work and rally behind his organization, which does so much for us living with AIDS.

Sincerely,  
Al Hader

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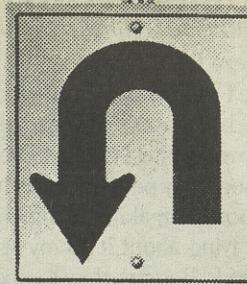
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## Jenny Jones' Missed Chance

Dear Editor,

As national speakers and authors on gay and lesbian issues, we feel we should respond to the recent publicity concerning the talk show guest in Auburn Hills, Mich. who shot and killed a male acquaintance who had a crush on him. While concentrating on defending her show, talk show host Jenny Jones missed the opportunity to reflect on what a senseless killing this was and how wrong it was for someone to commit violence against someone simply because they are gay.

continued on 6



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## COMMENTARY

continued from 3

where I might be seen by someone I really care about who loves me but hates fags and doesn't know I'm one! I mean, I like being around gay people just as long as nobody is making me feel guilty for lying about it to my straight friends. Besides, they'll expect me to do stuff, like helping someone with AIDS.

"SEEKS GM 18-25. Everybody knows that after 25 men start going downhill. I suppose some things get better with age like experience, wisdom, knowledge, patience -- you know, the secondary stuff. But hey, I don't have to sleep with the trolls to get those things. I mean, middle-age spread is so gross! Besides, you don't need that spiritual stuff for a good relationship. And what would I talk about with an older guy, anyway? My god, some of his life would be like, history, and I don't know anything about history and I don't really want to know anything about history because history is, you know, history, and what's it got to do with anything anyway?

"FRIENDSHIP. Throw that in there just in case you're not attracted to the guy. Good out. Friends first. Even sounds kind of virtuous and responsible. Leave it in. Definitely.

"NO FATS. It's not like a good relationship can't come in a pretty package. I mean, pretty people develop character too. Look at me. I'll find a hunk and look for the valuable stuff inside later. I'm sure I'll find it. And it's not like the sexual attraction between two people ever just goes away or anything. It's a forever thing, right? That'll buy us time to be deep later. And if there's no sex, who wants to look deeper anyway? It's not like I'm fat or ever will be. Fat is so gross!

"NO FEMMES. I mean I'm out and proud at the parades like everyone else, but not all the time for god's sake! How could I go out with a femme? Everybody would know I'm gay too! I'm just not... well, it's not that I'm a coward or anything like that, it's just that I think that what I do in the bedroom is nobody's business, and femmes can't exactly hide it very well even out of the bedroom.

But that doesn't mean I can't. So I want someone who can, you know, blend in with people who are, well, normal and like, hide it. But not at the Gay Pride Parade. Nobody's gonna bash us there. Not that I'm afraid. I just want to act, you know, normal. And have a normal boyfriend.

"NO FLAKES. Divergent thinkers scare me, and if I tell them to stay away they will because I said so. Flakes do know who they are, don't they? I mean they know they're flakes so if I say "no flakes" they'll stay away, right? Well, at least the non-flakes will know that I'm not a flake and I hate flakes and they'll know I'm one of us instead of one of them. Yeah. That'll work. NO FLAKES.

"OR BARFLIES. I just hate people who drink. And I hate people who smoke. And I hate men who dress in drag and I hate old men who try to talk to you and I hate having to be around lesbians and I hate those guys who strut around showing off their gym bodies and I hate those other losers who hang out in bars and besides it's too hard to meet people there.

"HIV- ONLY. I mean safe sex is fine and everything, but sometimes, you know... and besides he might die someday and the relationship would be over and what good would that do me when I want a long-term relation-

ship in spite of the fact that my last 10 averaged maybe a week. And I don't want to think about stuff like dying. It's not like I'm going to. I want to think about love.

"WHITE ONLY. It's not like my provincial upbringing is my fault, is it? But what am I going to do about it now? My parents were afraid of people who are different. I mean, I'm not afraid of diversity or anything. It's just personal taste, you know? Besides, it's bad enough being gay without having a black boyfriend or something. I'd catch some major flack. Then there's the physical things about Black guys and Asian guys and Hispanic guys, if you know what I mean. I've heard. But I'm not prejudiced, so it's okay.

"PRFSSNL A+. Next to sex, money is the thing that really keeps people together.

"Damn, why is it so hard to find good men? Okay, let's review. The ad reads:

Sexist, naive, closeted, racist GWM who is afraid of aging and has surrendered to society's homophobic values seeks someone as frightened and clueless as himself in order to build a lasting relationship on a foundation of secrecy, assimilationism, separatism and self-doubt. Call and lie to me at #90210."

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## Ooops!

In the mid-february ISSUE, we neglected to credit a good friend for the use of her photograph. (Our Spiritual Selves.) Thank you, Barbara Malcolm.

*Lashay* the uncommon shop

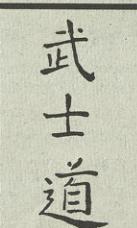
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THE LATEST ISSUE IS PUBLISHED MID-MONTH BY THE LATEST ISSUE PUBLISHERS.

MAILING ADDRESS IS P.O. BOX 160584, SACRAMENTO, CA 95816. OFFICE ADDRESS IS

2528 CAPITOL AVENUE, SACRAMENTO, CA 95816.

CONTACT PHONE IS (916) 448-8504, FAX (916) 448-8505,

E-MAIL ADDRESS IS LATEST1@AOL.COM. SUBSCRIPTION RATE, 1ST CLASS ONLY, \$25 PER YEAR.

# Around the NATION

## White Ends Fast

Dr. Mel White, a gay Christian who used to ghost write for Pat Robertson, was arrested in February for trespassing at Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network. He had been attempting to speak with Robertson about his anti-gay preaching. White refused to pay his fine and began a fast in prison. After 23 days, Robertson finally agreed to meet with him and dropped charges. A new organization to monitor anti-gay rhetoric by televangelists has begun from the incident. White is negotiating with Sacramento's Tzedakah Publications for a book deal.

## Gay Student Protection

California assemblymember Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) introduced legislation to protect California students from discrimination based on sexuality. The California Education Code protects a student's right to equal access to education regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, or economic status. Kuehl's bill will add "sexual orientation" to the list. The Education code covers all California public school districts, community college districts, the California State University system, and the University of California (subject to approval from the Regents). The bill is sponsored by the California Teacher's Association and LIFE AIDS Lobby.

## Pedro Zamora Commemorated

59th Street in northwest Miami, Florida has been renamed Pedro Zamora Way in honor of the AIDS activist who became internationally known as one of the housemates on MTV's "Real World." 2,000 people gathered across from Zamora's former school to dedicate the street on February 28, the day that would have been Zamora's 23rd birthday. Zamora died of complications from AIDS last November.

## Hungary Court Recognizes Gay Couples

Hungary's highest court, The Constitutional Court, ruled in March that same-sex common-law marriages are constitutional. It confirmed, however, the definition of civil marriages as "between a man and a woman." In Hungary, common-law marriages are afforded most of the privi-

leges of civil marriage. The Hungarian legislature must now decide how to respond to the ruling, either by revising present law or passing new legislation.

## St. Paddy Parade Welcomes Gays

In March, Cambridge Massachusetts held its first Saint Patrick's Day Parade, and the crowd of thousands warmly welcomed the gay contingents in the parade. The mayor of Cambridge is openly gay and was the parade's Grand Marshall. Sponsors of the St. Patrick's parade in nearby Boston cancelled its 1994 parade rather than allow Irish gays and lesbians to march, and a court decision allowed them to bar them from this year's parade.

The theme of the Cambridge parade was "Peace and Reconciliation." As the Irish American Gay and Lesbian Group of Boston approached Harvard Square, the crowd shouted, "Welcome to Cambridge!" amid cheers and applause.

**MAY 5,6 & 7**

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# THE LAMBDA CENTER

Serving the Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Community

## Mondays

\*Men's Coming Out Group 5:30pm  
\*Freedom Fair Committee; 2nd & 4th Monday 6:30pm

## Tuesdays

\*Women's Youth Group 6:30pm  
\*Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00pm

## Wednesdays

\*Eagles (for Seniors); 2nd & 4th Wed. 6:30pm  
\*Men of Color Support Group; 2nd & 4th Wed. 6:30pm

Men's Focus Group; 1st & 3rd Wed. 7:00pm

## Thursdays

\*Being Alive Living Room for PWA's 2-5:00 pm  
Women's Coming Out Group 6:00pm  
\*CODA (co-dependents anonymous) 7:30pm

## Fridays

\*Youth Rap Group (24 & Under) 5:45pm  
\*Cafe' Lambda (coffeehouse) 8:00pm

## Saturdays

\*Traffic School; 3/25 & 4/29 8:00am-4:30pm  
Youth Social (24 & Under) 8:00pm  
\*Homebuyers Seminar; Call Cynthia @ 334-4834

## Sundays

\*Alcoholics Anonymous 11:00am  
\*Gay Fathers; 2nd Sunday 6:30pm  
\*EAGLES Bike Club; call Roy @ 442-0185

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Lambda Community Center 20th & L Streets,  
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## LETTERS

continued from 3

In today's society there is a great deal of unreasonable fear of homosexuals. Unfortunately, people are always going to have prejudices, but it needs to be made clear through the media, and from the people who make and enforce our laws, that it is not okay to act on it--either with violence or with discrimination.

During the 15 years we have been presenting diversity training seminars for corporations and

college students, we have found that through personal contact with gays and lesbians and through our book, homophobia is lessened. We have dedicated our lives to teaching people about gays and lesbians so they can overcome their homophobia. While the story of the Michigan case is fresh in your mind, we think this is a good opportunity to remind the public that gays and lesbians are all around us, they are co-workers, accountants, house painters and even the

neighbor next door.

The more gay and lesbian people become visible in their community and voice their concerns about mistreatment and discrimination, the more people will view the majority of the gay community for what they are: normal, productive, human beings.

Sincerely,

**Paulette Jacobson & Tony Ferrante**

Co-authors of "Letters From the Closet"

## Dear Editor,

Just a few issues I'd like to share with you concerning your mid-February edition

The AIDS File by Bruce Mirken: Referring to safe sex as "The cure, stupid." is better than past editorials in gay newspapers "take your AZT, stupid". But were still missing the point: "It's not HIV stupid".

Lesbian Health: by Michael R. Gorman. Bravo! on your breast cancer coverage. Let alone all your other lesbian stuff in this issue. So little coverage is given to women in most of our papers its ridiculous. Gay men need to realize that homophobia won't end until heterosexism is eliminated. Yes I'm proud to be a feminist.

Lastly, I'd like to hear more from Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon--these are the kind of people who really see the bigger picture in our community. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,  
Ed Vargas

is typical of many gay white male activists who, while they may be well-meaning and sincere, are naively assuming that women's issues, lesbian/gay/bisexual issues, AIDS/HIV issues and issues of concern to People of Color are all one and the same. Did it ever occur to Mr. Hinman that many feminists and some separatist lesbians don't want to have anything to do with gay white males because many feel that all white males are domineering oppressors who have always been given preferential treatment in society? Did it ever occur to Mr. Hinman that coworkers-most of whom are female and/or People of Color. Almost of them seemed to feel that the male acquaintance deserved to be shot and that his death was no loss. I even heard one African-American woman loudly proclaim that "all of them fags should be shot." When will gay white male activists finally wake up and stop trying to link their issues and causes with other groups?

David Gray

## Gorman's True Colors

### Dear Editor,

Re: "Lambda Letters Annual Auction" letter written by Boyce Hinman, Administrator of The Lambda Letters Project (The latest ISSUE, Mid-March 1995)

Boyce Hinman, Administrator of the Lambda Letters Project,

### Dear Editor,

Michael R. Gorman's Editorial "Show Your Colors" was, by far, one of the finest I have ever read.

Michael, may your voice never grow "Too Tired".

Suzanne (Kelley) Jones

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# Down! Down! Down! : Gay Bills Go Down For The Count

by Laurie McBride  
Executive Director  
LIFE AIDS Lobby

**T**hat's how our bills are going. Last week, Domestic Partner Registration Bill...Down. And today, Needle Exchange...Down, on a party-line vote: Democrats for, Republicans against.

Dignity for All Students...Just passed Assembly Higher Education, faces a tough battle in Assembly Education April 19...ROTC bill...Down--at least our side lost.

LIFE's Domestic Partner Registration bill, AB 627, by Richard Katz (D-Los Angeles), faced an intense, hostile hearing in Assembly Judiciary last week. Positive testimony was challenged and demeaned by committee members; committee chair, Phil Isenberg (D-Sacramento) had to interrupt questioning, ruling it "out of order" and "argumentative". But most distressing were arguments put forward by opponents: homosexuality is the "most dangerous lifestyle in America today"; lesbians are "incapable of long standing commitments", historic injustices against slaves, interracial couples, and Asian Americans (not allowed to marry), "were certainly tragedies..." but recognizing same sex couples would be "promoting the abnormal and diseased".

Then this afternoon, AB 1001, Dignity for All Students, by Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl (D-Los Angeles) -- co-sponsors LIFE and California Teachers Association -- came up in Assembly Higher Education Committee. Two students testified about their personal experiences with discrimination. The bill wavered between passage and defeat all day long...Privately, Republican Assemblymembers admitted they would support the bill, but were "getting a lot of pressure"...Threats of retaliation by the Republican Assembly Cau-

cus danced in their heads, rather than concern for the verbal and physical abuse faced by gay and lesbian students everyday.

Testimony against the bill spoke of the need to discriminate against homosexuals, to actively discourage children from even coming in contact with us, etc. Truly frightening.

In the end, Bruce McPherson (R-Santa Cruz) voted yes, and the bill is out. It goes next to Assembly Education, April 19th.

AB 1407, the needle exchange bill, by Assemblymember Mazzoni (D-Marin), looked hopeful and then was gone, 8-8 on a party-line vote in Assembly Health. Debate was heated, centering on "pandering to addicts", etc. Aye votes were there early on, then faded.

The ROTC bill, AB 415 by Pete Knight (R-Lancaster): originally would have prohibited any Cal State University Campus from banning ROTC and military recruiters. We defeated that last week. Then Democrats wrote compromise language so "conservative Democrats would not be ravaged" by distorted attacks...You know the kind..."Assemblymember upholds homosexuals over our boys in blue"...Etc. The fear thing...again.

All this is bad enough; but worse: the level of homophobic banter among Assembly and Senate Republicans...Not all, but far too many. In meetings of the Assembly Republican Caucus homophobic jokes are the order of the day. Members stepping "out of line" in any area are accused "fag-lovers", as in "next thing you know, so-and-so will be a homo-lover". Good grief.

The voices of hate have gotten louder, bolder. And, cheery thought, they are talking about you and me. That's the handiwork of Limbaugh, Buchanan and Robertson. Any inclination toward dealing with all people in a humane, compassionate manner is to be shouted down, belittled, stopped. Moderates like Pete Wilson may defend their position on abortion, but not on lesbian/gay issues. We are hated by the rabid right, and we are the give-away to their appetite for intolerance.

Heads up, folks. It's going to be a rough ride. Hang on tight

to your rights. And lend a helping hand when your advocates call.

The LIFE AIDS Lobby's mission is to coordinate, develop and pro-

## Around the CAPITOL

move the public policy agendas of gay, lesbian and HIV-affected Californians. LIFE's House of Delegates consists of representatives from over 100 gay/lesbian

and HIV-related organizations, bringing together our diverse constituency into a statewide forum. LIFE's full-time staff is headquartered in Sacramento.

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# QUOTE, UNQUOTE

by Rex Wockner

"I'm not making much progress on it. I'm finding it very painful to write. I don't know if I feel that the 70s, which is what I'm writing about, is more remote than the 50s, but it seems terribly remote, more like another life than another decade. ... I remember things but it's very hard to get into that set of values or to care about those things anymore. They seem so eclipsed by the 80s... The parts I've written and read to people, they all like, they think it's my best writing. It's just that I myself can't work up too much enthusiasm. ... I'm about 200 or so pages into it."

—Author Edmund White on his next auto-biographical book, "The Farewell Symphony." The other two autobiographies are "The Beautiful Room Is Empty" and "A Boy's Own Story."

"Our day in the media sun has become too easy. Stonewall is now a theme park, no longer the site of riot and rebellion for sexual freedom. Our crowd in the street now looks like fans going to a sporting event... We all look like such happy queers, celebrating our single issue: gay rights. We have traded our desire to be liberated for a nice slot on the evening news."

—Chicago columnist Jon-Henri Damski.

"Homosexuality is the creature shaking his fist in the face of the creator, saying 'I do know best.'"

—R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., to a Southern Baptist convention in Wake Forest, N.C., according to The (Jacksonville) Florida Times-Union.

"There oughtn't to be discrimination... Everyone should be treated alike, whether they're black or brown or disabled or homosexual. ... You watch some of these programs (about gays). You read some of the material. And you say, 'Well, they don't have a choice. Something else happens. Somewhere in the genes, or whatever.' I don't know whether it's involuntary or choice. But either way, they have, obviously, civil rights. No discrimination. This is America."

—Republican presidential contender and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., to The New York Times.

"No doubt about it. I oppose the special-interest gay agenda that runs from gays in the military and reaches as far as to suggest special status for the sexual orientation under federal civil rights statutes."

—Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole to the Washington Times

"I think the most important decision for gay men to make in 1995 is whether to have oral sex without a condom. ... It's the issue of whether someone is killing someone or not. It is a big issue."

—Andrew Sullivan, editor of The New Republic, in POZ magazine.

"We abhor violence against homosexuals. We would counsel strongly —in relation to homosexuality — that you can hold your religious beliefs without beating people up and being violent."

—Pat Robertson on TV's 700 Club."

"I have a lot of gay following, and still do, and I love them as much as they love me. It's not a one-sided thing...They're a part of my history, the whole way my career started. But at some point, I'm at a loss for words (on the topic of her alleged anti-gay remarks in the 1980s). What am I supposed to do. It's ten years ago. If I'd have gone to jail for it the year it happened, I'd be out of jail by now."

—Disco queen Donna Summer in a new interview with The Washington Blade.

▼▼▼

"So many young men, feverishly chasing something or other —dancing, drinking, eyes darting to cruise the room, faces saying 'look at me,' shirts off, muscles flexing, men smoking, snorting, drifting into the corner, the toilet, the back room, and afterward taking drunken taxi-rides to a stranger's room. What are all the young men seeking? Sex? Love? A 'relationship'? Assurances that youth will never end? Oblivion? What?"

—Former conservative mover-and-shaker Marvin Liebman in his syndicated gay-newspaper column.

▼▼▼

"I don't want to live in a world that begins and ends with being gay."

—"Jeff" in the new Australian gay film "The Sum of Us" explaining why he doesn't want to visit San Francisco.

▼▼▼

"I gave a talk to the Human Rights Campaign Fund in Washington two years ago... there were 800 people in the Washington Hilton in black tie and I said, 'I just want to ask all of you who are out to your employers to put your hands up, and all of you who are out to your parents to put your hands up.' And there was a scattering of hands, and I said, 'Will all the rest of you please leave now and come back when you've done that because I don't know what the fuck you're doing here at a dinner for gay rights when you haven't done the first thing that's necessary.'"

—Andrew Sullivan, editor of The New Republic, in POZ magazine.

▼▼▼

"There was a time in my teens that I actually slept with women. It was just an awkward phase I was passing through."

—Out magazine Editor Michael Goff.

▼▼▼

"Hitler taught the world what could happen when the government began to target people not for what they had done, but because of their status."

—Brooklyn Federal District Court Judge Eugene Nickerson in ruling the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays unconstitutional.

▼▼▼

"It's been an ongoing problem. The rumor was printed in a French magazine that Keanu had married David Geffen (the billionaire producer), and the story has taken on a life of its own. It's not true. Keanu has never met David Geffen, and Keanu is not gay."

—Heartthrob Keanu Reeves' publicist, Robert Garlock.

# Hope, Hype and Bad Reporting

In March TV newscasts and newspapers across the country carried what sounded like extraordinary news: Tests showed that a new AIDS treatment might be able to rebuild HIV-damaged immune systems, with "dramatic" CD4 cell increases in some patients.

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Anthony Fauci was seen on numerous TV broadcasts extolling the breakthrough.

The treatment is known as interleukin-2 (IL-2), one of a group of chemicals known as cytokines that the body produces to regulate the immune system. Unfortunately, the often-breathless media reports illustrated yet again how hope and hype can outrun reality. We're a long way from knowing if IL-2 will ever be a viable AIDS treatment, and NIAID and much of the media are again guilty of raising people's hopes before there is solid data in place.

What many of the news reports failed to make clear is that the study, published in the March 2 New England Journal of Medicine, was very small, didn't have a control group not receiving IL-2 and did not show whether the boost in CD4 cells that some--not all--patients got actually improved their health. They generally also failed to mention that, due to the slowness of publication in prestigious journals such as the NEJM, the results were basically old news.

It seems odd that a person with an AIDS-depleted immune system could get a big boost in CD4 cells and not do better, but it is entirely possible. The immunology gets complicated, but the gist of it is that having more cells is

# AIDS FILE

by Bruce Mirken

not the same thing as knowing that those cells work: If your car has a V-8 engine but only one cylinder is firing, it won't go very fast. CD4 cells are carefully and delicately adapted to respond to specific threats--antigens in medical parlance. The March 2 study wasn't designed to demonstrate if the study volunteers' new CD4 cells were working properly or if their health improved.

In fact, there are some tentative signs of trouble. The NEJM article described one patient who got pneumocystis carinii pneumonia with 400 CD4 cells, though PCP is normally quite rare in people with counts above 200. Not-yet-published preliminary reports of later IL-2 trials suggest that there may be a number of cases in which opportunistic infections occurred at higher-than-expected CD4 counts.

This does NOT mean that IL-2 is useless, or that it won't eventually prove to be a worthwhile therapy. What it means is we just don't have enough information yet to draw any conclusions and given the drug's rather brutal side effects--there is no reason to rush out and try the stuff. (Anyone considering IL-2 therapy, which is available through some doctors, would do well to read the articles in the 3/95 AIDS Treatment News and the 2/95 GMHC Treatment Issues before making a decision.)

What it also means is that yet again the mainstream media have demonstrated their almost pathological inability to report medical research issues accurately. Sometimes the results are relatively harmless, as in the rollercoaster of hype over the alleged benefits of oat bran, red wine, etc. But in the case of something like AIDS, bad reporting can play havoc with people's medical decisions and disrupt research.

The nature of modern media makes distortion almost inevitable. You simply cannot report the subtle complexities of IL-2 research or most other significant HIV/AIDS issues in 40 seconds, and when TV and radio people try they always screw up. The print media at least have the space and the opportunity to do better, but deadline pressure and the desire for snappy headlines often produces unfortunate results.

Frankly, much of the blame

goes to inexperienced, ignorant and lazy reporters and editors. There's no other way to explain something like the New York Times Magazine's 3/26 piece on Genentech's experimental gp120 HIV vaccine, which looks like a masterful snow job performed by Genentech's P.R. people on a clueless reporter. A journalist who can't be bothered to read the actual study rather than just the press release announcing it (and understand what it is he or she is reading) shouldn't be reporting on medical issues.

That said, NIAID's handling of the IL-2 study raises questions as well. Besides sending out a press release announcing the results, NIAID created its own video footage of Fauci and researcher Clifford Lane and offered it to TV stations in order to make sure the story got on the air--something they almost never do. And though the video contained the necessary disclaimer about the preliminary nature of the study, often the only part that got aired was the "hot," optimistic stuff.

Don't imagine for a second that Fauci and Co. didn't realize that would happen and didn't know what they were doing. Could it be that it had something to do with the fact that it's budget season and they needed some good news to keep the appropriations flowing? Could it be that NIAID played games with the hopes of desperately sick people in order to keep their own nest feathered?

Enquiring minds want to know.



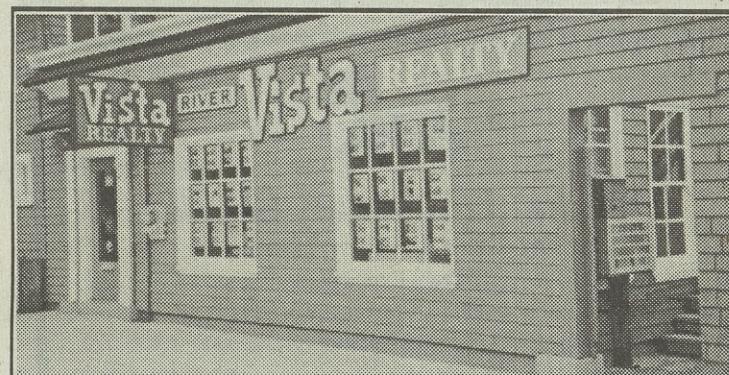
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# Gay Men Under the Dome of California's Capitol

by David Borad

**W**e want you to write a story about the men behind the scenes at the Capitol."

Wonderful. "I don't know anything about politics." "You don't have to," my editor assured me. "Just go."

Entertaining visions of smoke-filled rooms and political kingmakers, I cautiously made appointments to talk with four men active in "the building" -- as they call the Capitol -- a rabbit warren of offices, meeting rooms, and conference rooms. But, instead of something out of a cynical film noir, I found men who are still young, still idealistic, and who work hard to make sure the system still represents "We, the people."

Kenneth Topper is a busy man. He is a consultant to Senator

Lockyer, President Pro Tempore of the state Senate, as well as Co-Executive Director of the Sacramento Chapter of The NAMES Project. "You can shadow me for a few hours," he offered. After finally making room for a fifteen minute interview, we agreed to meet in the middle of a typical afternoon.

"All issues relate to gay and lesbian issues. The more we set ourselves aside, the more we hurt ourselves." That seemed a major theme running through our conversation. Topper is hardly the

Hollywood stereotype of a bureaucrat. His quick wit and matching smile make him a natural for a job that combines the roles of public relations liaison, fact finder, political strategist, and general aide-de-camp to one of the most powerful men in California. Actually, he is one of six aides to Senator Lockyer who monitor the 21 standing committees of the senate.

The consultants are each responsible for monitoring several committees, as well as keeping the Senator informed of the huge amount of information related to legislation passing through the senate chambers on any given day.

After meeting briefly in his office, he began by giving me a tour of the building, and, better yet, a chance to see him in action. Walking the halls, he was clearly a man in his element. Stopping to discuss a variety of matters with every third person he saw, he appeared aware of every person who passed.

"I'm glad to say gay issues and AIDS issues are now becoming mainstream." Topper keeps the Senator apprised of these issues, and related information. His main focus though, is to monitor a variety of committees he characterizes as the "Labor Cluster" -- including Governmental Organization, Industrial Relations, and Public Employment and Retirement. Among the topics covered in these committees are gaming, tribal rela-

"All issues relate to gay and lesbian issues. The more we set ourselves aside, the more we hurt ourselves."

- Ken Topper

plaques and proclamations given to Stan before his death from AIDS. Ultimately, Topper would succeed Hadden as an aide to Sen. Roberti and continue that position in Sen. Lockyer's office.

Once we finished our circuit of the public rooms, he said he wanted to show me his favorite place in the building, a place he could escape to from time to time to think. Suddenly we were off through another series of out of the way passages and several small, steep flights of stairs, we found ourselves along the catwalk surrounding the outside of the capitol dome.

While we stood out there, looking out over Sacramento, I asked him if he felt he was a powerful man in the community. He demurred, maintaining that power is not what he is after. When pressed further, he conceded that he did have some power of influence due to his career. He continued that thought, however, with the insistence that if he has any power he only keeps it by "giving it away." For Topper, power isn't about being able to manipulate people, but instead about having the ability to empower others to do things on their own.

Michael Varacalli is a Legislative Advocate for the California State Employees' Association. We spoke briefly about his extensive political background which includes four years in his present position, previous work for CSEA as a legislative analyst, his involvement with River City Democratic Club, and his participation on the board of the LIFE Lobby. Then we began to talk about his experiences as an openly gay man working in the building. At this point, Ken returned, and brought to the conversation his counterpart in

*continued on 14*



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# What's the Rush? Gay Brotherhood Draws New Pledges

by Christina Allan

**S**ex in the showers, on the stairs, under the sink! S&M rituals involving handcuffs and small animals! Entire rooms full of lubricants and exotic rubber goods! Sound like the quintessential gay fraternity? Not according to Delta Lambda Phi's Mickel Paris.

"Some of my peripheral friends imagine the fraternity as a place for gays to get together and have orgies," confides Paris, a brand new pledge. "They have real misconceptions about the group," he says, and his involvement is opening their minds.

As the UC Davis chapter of Delta Lambda Phi celebrates their fifth-year anniversary, they've just finished a successful rush that brought over 60 people to investigate this unique fraternity. Paris went to one of the first informal events hosted by the group during the two-week rush period.

"It was one of the best parties I've ever been to," he says. "I could relate to everyone who was there." He'd already sampled one straight fraternity function that he described as an egotistical "meat market." Fellow pledge Richard Prasad had no desire to explore any of the other fraternities.

"I met a really great bunch of people, and it made me feel like I wanted to join," he says of Delta Lambda Phi. "It's a very different kind of frat." To celebrate the addition of new pledges, for example, the group has a slumber party.

"Everybody has a blast," says Vice President and Rush Chairman Kyle Pham, adding that a brotherly sleep-over is not something you find in other Greek groups.

The organization's five newest additions are now into their first month of pledge-dom, and have already developed a strong sense

of community working on a fraternity t-shirt design. It's one of several projects they'll have to complete during this period, along with kidnapping their chapter president, passing a test about the Greek system and throwing a "night of madness" theme party.

Unlike other fraternities, Delta Lambda Phi does not own a house and has no plans for purchasing one. Their current \$10 per month fee is one of the cheapest on campus, and they make a conscious effort to keep down costs for their members. Their annual "Davis is Burning" party is an important fund-raiser for the group and features runway shows and drag queens. And even though most Greeks know that Delta Lambda Phi is a gay fraternity, the organization doesn't require members to participate in any public activities.

"The level of outness ranges," Pham explains, "and we don't look at how out people are." He describes the fraternity's role as a safe place for friends, a sentiment echoed by Paris.

"I know as a brotherhood they are very good at supporting the members, and since I plan on



Members of Delta Lambda Phi, Davis' gay fraternity.

coming out at some point in my life to relatives and family, I wanted a group of people I could lean on for support," Paris says. "Everyone should have that available to them."

Community service is another area available to these young men. The fraternity's president is the Student Coordinator of UC Davis' Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Resource Center, where over half of the other volunteers are other fraternity members. The group has also participated in a run-a-thon to benefit the Sacramento AIDS Foundation, and has worked with Sacramento's AIDS Hospice.

Of course, being a gay fraternity does present some unique challenges. Even though the s&m rituals don't exist, the fraternity recently instituted a new rule: no pledge is allowed to have a sexual relationship with an active member. If two active mem-

bers become involved, Pham says, it's up to them to deal with the consequences. It doesn't happen much, and it's generally discouraged.

"We don't want anyone who's in it just to find a partner or a sexual relationship," comments Pham, and Prasad says he envisions going out with frat brothers to other places and meeting people together. However, this isn't exactly a new branch of the Greek "marriage mill" image. Although the Davis fraternity would like to have exchanges, other chapters of Delta Lambda Phi are often on different academic schedules. They have had exchanges with campus sororities, Pham says, which are generally more open to them.

"We haven't been successful with the frats," he admits, "I feel that a few don't want us here at all." He says he knows that there are gay men closeted in the straight fraternities, and says that Delta Lambda Phi has been conscious about not creating a straight closet of its own: the organization's official motto is, "A fraternity founded by gay men for all men." None of the 22 men involved in the Davis chapter are straight, but in the past they've had several bisexual brothers.

So aren't they selling out, squeezing themselves into a hyper-heterosexual institution renowned for its beer-drinking, mediocre academics and brutal hazing practices? In fact, Delta Lambda Phi does not allow hazing. The Davis chapter has the third highest GPA among approximately 25 campus fraternities, and it does not see itself as just a quirky take on the Greek system.

"Who's to say what is a heterosexual form and what is not? You can't define something as 'this is exclusively for heterosexuals,'" says Pham, pointing out that they are part of a national fraternity that belongs to the Interfraternity Council.

Prasad adds that he's interested in deliberately becoming more involved with other Greek groups. "I want that to be part of our agenda. We are part of the system and part of the Council, and we ought to make use of it."

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# Getting Back to the Sacred: Gay Men & Spirituality

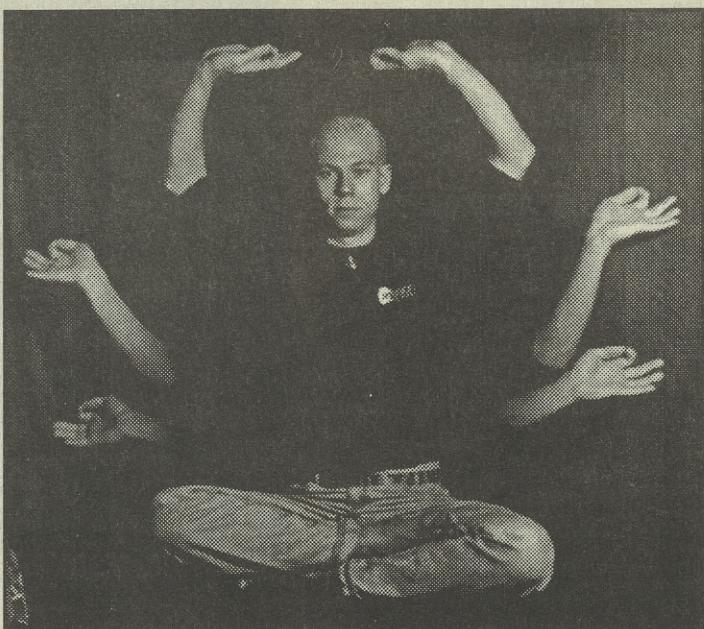
by Sean LeVahn

There is a resurgence of the spirit sweeping the world at this moment, and many gay men are at the forefront of this movement back to that which is sacred.

For most gay men, the spiritual component of their lives seems to have been devoid of any personal connection to divine energy on a daily basis. In this world of shifting values, new concepts, glitz and glitter, it is necessary to have a deep core of energy that renews you spiritually and provides inspiration to follow your personal HeartPath.

**Gay heritage** - Let's begin with the spiritual heritage of our "gay tribe". According to 'Malidoma Some', a west african tribal leader of the Dagara people, gay people have always been honored within their communities as healers, witches, shamans, and priests. The men of the rainbow are uniquely suited to being intermediaries between spirit and the material world. A gay man gives off a very different vibration than a non-gay man, and it is this "gatekeeper energy" that tribal leaders 'look' for before

the baby is born. This means that the man grows up with the honored task of keeping open, and functioning, the gateways of spirit to this planet. He is capable of feeling spiritual energy, talking to the spirits, and keeping peaceful vibes within the tribe. In the present it seems that so many gay men are gatekeepers for their loved ones, ushering them over to the realm of spirit and into the light. Another concept of gay energy is brought by a man named Andrew Harvey. Harvey is an author and speaker of gay erotic spirituality and puts forth that we have always been gay in our past lives and therefore make up a kind of gay tribe or family throughout the eons. Think of that! We are a powerful spiritual group of people that move through time within the 'gay' vibration in order to uplift humanity? As gay men we are suited to doing that kind of work. It is a profound gift to be a gay male



The author explores his spirituality.

and full of wonder!

**Men and feeling** - So many men have been taught to disconnect from their feelings, rather than have full body awareness of emotional states. Emotion and feeling take us into altered states of being, where spiritual experiences, divine revelations, meditation, and prayer take place. It is safe to assume that when we are disconnected from our emotions (as most men are), then we stop

having a direct link to the sacred. Many men hold onto old, past toxic feelings based on the way things went down as a child, therefore holding us forever in the 'wounded child' place, which tends to destroy relationships and hurt our bodies. As gay men we have a deep ability to FEEL where we are at any given moment, let's use this gift and free ourselves and feel what it's like to really be present and clear of

past feelings that cloud the here and now.

The journey of being gay - Gay men know the transformational journey that takes place as a result of stepping upon the path of men loving men. It is a path full of joy, loss, pain, and bliss. We either come out of this fire burned and bitter or we come out shining like the sun, radiant in our self-acceptance. The joy of accepting our gay male energy can be a very spiritual and enlightening process. It will teach us many profound thoughts about our true natures. We as the Gay Tribe have so much courage that lives within us and our community, that embracing it will result in quantum leaps in your growth as a human being.

**Gay Men and the Goddess** - Gay men and the Goddess have always had a very special relationship to each other. It is such a powerful coupling that simply put, it is where we as gay men receive our strength. It is the power of the feminine that leads us to our spiritual sides. To have the male and female aspects of sacred energy balanced within you results in harmony and enlightened life.

*continued on 14*

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# Flora and Fauna on the Trail of The Radical Fairies

by Michael R. Gorman

When William Shakespeare wrote *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, he recognized the sensuous call of the midnight forest, the promise of temporary freedom from the social taboos of the daylight hours in the town square. His play paints a seductive portrait of cavorting fairies and lovers and libertine rogues. In our enlightened and scientific age, the viewers of the play recognize that the scenes are fiction; that is, unless those viewers have had any traffic with The Radical Fairies.

Picture the lawn outside the White House fence during the week of the last national gay rights march on Washington. Filtering onto the grassy space are men dressed in a kind of drag that could only be described as "fairy": a flowing earth-tone skirt here, a pair of ballet slippers there, a Scarlett O'Hara hat with fresh flowers and combat boots, a necklace of pagan charms intermixed with pearls, Native American style face paint, a pair of jeweled glasses, harem pants and a halter with huge gossamer wings attached, green eye shadow, leather chaps and cloth slippers with bells on the toes, lots of bare midriffs, legs, bottoms . . .

It was a drumming circle that night, one of many types of "fairy circles" that make up the minimal structure of the fairie activities. Some of the men indulged

in spontaneous "smudging" ceremonies, a traditional Native American cleansing practise involving smoking bundles of sage. Others sat in the circle and began beating on their drums. Several fairies danced in the center of the circle in an uninhibited, playful way that is characteristic of the Radical Fairies.

The Radical Fairie Movement is an underground phenomenon on the fringes of the gay community, though its adherents include doctors, writers, attorneys, and a host of other educated professionals. The movement grew out of the search for non-traditional, non-Western modes of consciousness that took root in the 1960's. In the 1970's a certain number of gay men around the country began seeking lifestyles that fit this search. Small rural communities for gays sprang up in places as diverse as Golden, Oregon; Elwha,



Fairy men gather in a "heart circle" at Saratoga Springs.

Washington (on the Olympic Peninsula); Running Water, North Carolina; and Short Mountain, Tennessee. A similar community in Grinnell, Iowa began publishing a journal for rural gay men titled RFD. Its writers viewed gay men as very separate in nature from heterosexuals, very tied to the earth-centered, goddess-based cultures of the pre-Christian world: the Celts of Northern Europe in particular, where much of the fairie folklore originated. Their ideas signalled the beginnings of "fairy consciousness."

In the late 1970's a well-known gay activist stepped into the movement and gave it shape it did not previously have. Harry Hay was the founder of the first gay rights organization in modern America, the Mattachine Society, in 1950. That group already had strong philosophical foundations, seeing itself as a unique commu-

nity made up of all races and creeds and possessed of a spiritual and social identity different from the heterosexual world. Its goal was a search for gay identity. Hay continued through the years to develop his view of gay people as "other," as possessing a characteristic "gay spirit" that is neither male nor female, but incorporates both. These ideas were in conflict with the prevailing views in much of the early gay civil rights movement which sought to downplay differences in order to gain acceptance in the mainstream culture.

In 1979, Hay and his lover John Burnside called the first "Spiritual Conference for Radical Fairies." Over two hundred gay men met in a remote desert area of Arizona to explore a unique gay way of being. That conference gave a solid identity to what became known as the Fairie Movement. Groups of Radical Fairies

began meeting in rural locations all over the country. Such gatherings are now held in Europe and Australia as well.

In keeping with the pre-Christian nature of the Fairie philosophy, the group draws much of its imagery from Celtic folklore. The men's fairie names often come from these stories or reflect their tone of pantheistic playfulness. The modes of dress at fairie gatherings are meant to reflect the mischievous, androgynous, earthy, sensual natures of the fairies of lore.

Because the membership in Radical Fairies is very loose, it is often difficult to find fairies locally. There are, however, numerous Radical Fairies in Northern California. Jeffrey J. Douglas, the owner of the world famous chocolate shop on Castro Street, RoCocoa Chocolate Inc., attends Fairie Gatherings on a regular basis.

"I met someone who was involved with the Radical Fairies and started dating him. I had heard about the Radical Fairies, and the name had a great appeal for me. As a kid, I had always felt like a fairy. I'd wear coat hanger wings and flap around the neighborhood. I didn't want to be a girl; I just wanted to be a sparkle person. In the Radical Fairies, I can sparkle in an accepting environment. My fairie name is Diamond Heart."

According to Diamond Heart, there is no official organization to join. "You become a fairie by self-proclamation, by saying you're a fairie. Most fairies would say that they are anarchists."

*continued on 28*



*Cinco De Mayo  
Celebration*  
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FRIDAY  
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DINNER  
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## CAPITOL

continued from 10

Senator Lockyer's Los Angeles office, Peter Mackler.

Crowding into the small room, these three gentlemen began a spirited discussion about their experiences. The conversation flowed fast and there was an openness to the conversation which I had not anticipated. Even more, as the questions and answers continued, another presence became pronounced -- it was obvious that Stan Hadden

was a common thread linking these men.

When asked if it was difficult being an openly gay men at the Capitol the common response was a very distinct "No." The political climate was tempered by both professional civility and the experience they each have had of becoming role models of what men, who happen to be gay, can be. Topper and Mackler reminded me that by being able to break down stereotypes among the people they work with, they

can bring about an end to the propagation of those false images to the next generation.

It was on that note that we ended. Somehow, it seemed fitting that our final conversation was in an office still dominated with Stan Hadden's presence. A man who was instrumental in gay and lesbian politics in Sacramento for years, his influence lives on in a new generation of young men committed to continuing the struggle not only for "gay rights" but for everybody's rights.

## SPIRITUALITY

continued from 12

There is an amazing place in Oakland, CA called the Body Electric School, founded by Joseph Kramer, that teaches gay men how to create a spiritual experience within the sexual aspects of their lives. Through a two day workshop, men learn to honor the deep connection that can occur through sacred/erotic touch, reawakening deep centers

of pleasure in their own bodies.

Through the energy that makes us who we are, we can explore the multifaceted aspects of our creative, spiritual connection to sacred source, making way for the outer expression of who we are. We can transform this planet into what it truly was meant to be...a unified vision of love in all its sacred expressions!



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**Sunday April 30**  
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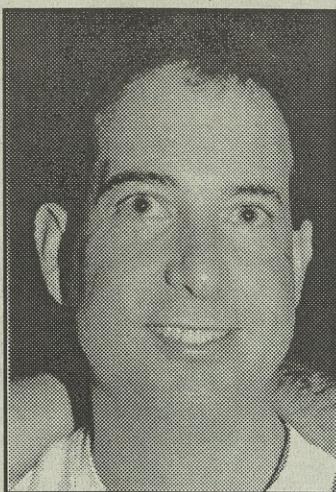
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# Are There Any Famous Men That You Fantasize About?

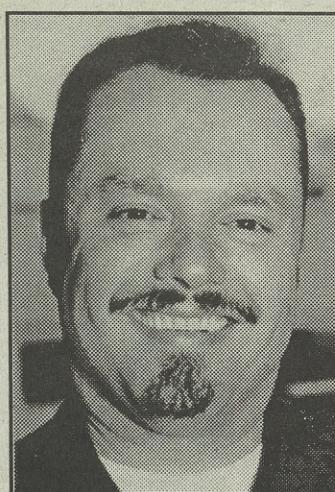
# Street WHYS?

by Stephen Luse



## Bill Holland

"Keanu Reeves. He is very male, sexy and masculine."



## Don Nielsen

"Dolph Lungren. Because he is a man."



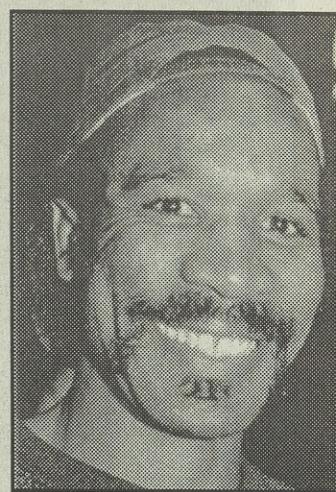
## Denise Smith

"Sylvester Stallone & Michael Landon. Because they both have hearts."



## Curtis Strong

"Dennis Quaid. He has followed me through my dreams since the 7th grade."



## Robert Lawson

"Scott Baccula. His demeanor, his mind, his thought in his roles in films... Plus, he's sexy."

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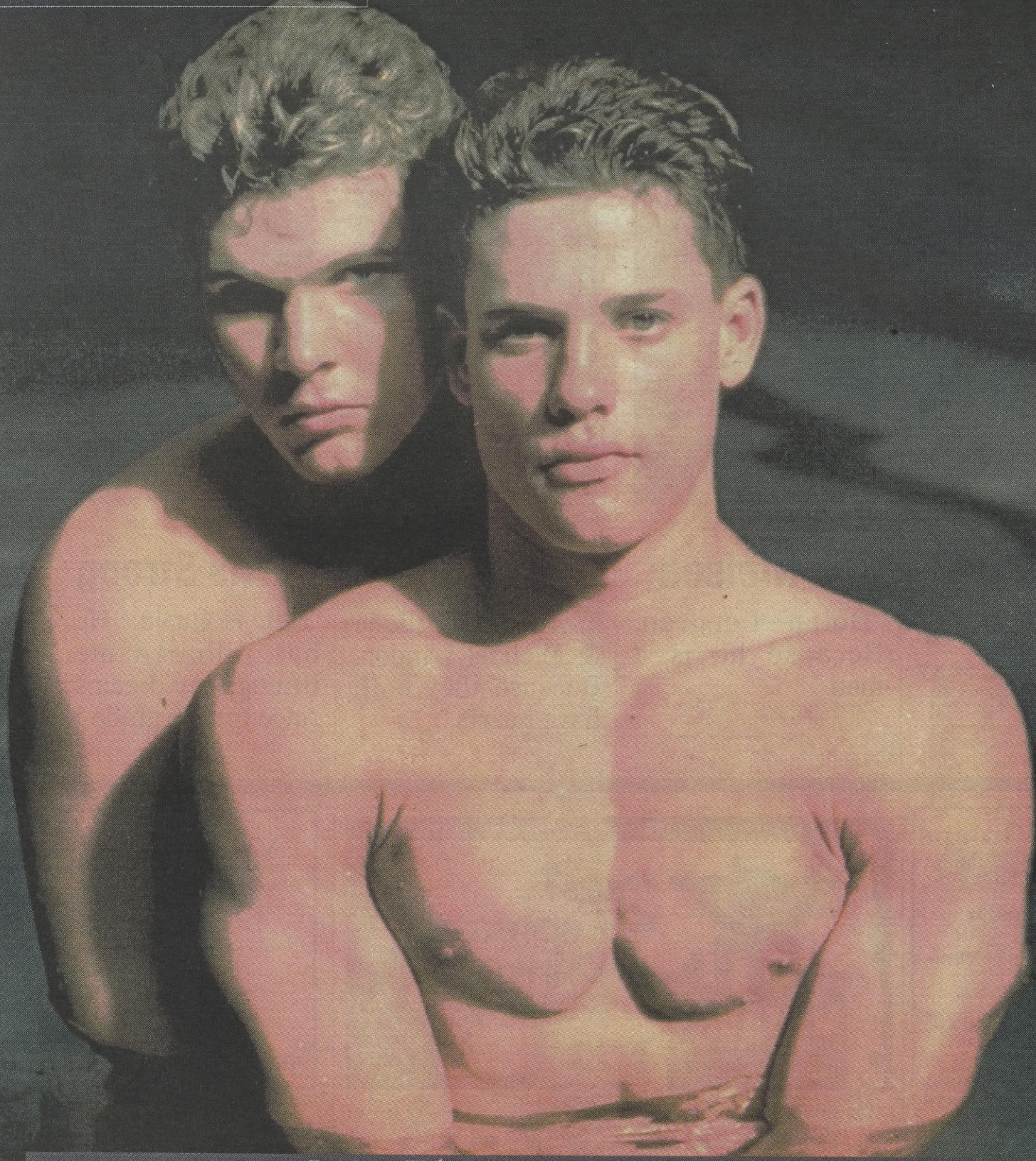
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# the latest events

## SACRAMENTO

### APRIL 14

**Bay Area Comic Maureen Brownsie** - 9 p.m. at Jammin' Jo's Sports and Dance Bar, 2721 Broadway. \$5 cover. (916) 457-7888.

### APRIL 16

**Easter Sunday at River City MCC Church** - 7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service East Lawn, Cathedral of Promise - 9 a.m. Sanctuary Worship - 10:45 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Sunday School - 6 p.m. Sanctuary Worship, located at Chapel One, Mather Air Force Base, Sacramento.

### APRIL 17

**Sacramento Women's Chorus** - rehearses Monday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. New members welcome. Call (916) 424-4411.

### APRIL 18

**The Sacramento Chapter, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** - will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room, St. Marks United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Marks Way. "Out in Suburbia", dealing with lesbian women in today's world, will be shown and discussed. (916) 863-9612.

### APRIL 19

**Bar Girls Premiere Party** - hosted by the latest ISSUE News-magazine Premiere movie begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Tower Theatre with party following at FACES, 2000 K Street. For more info call (916) 448-8504.

**Paulette Jacobson presenting her book** - "Letters From The Closet" at the Lesbian and Gay Business Alliance, 7 p.m. at Carrows Restaurant, J & 28th St. Call (916) 863-9733.

**Club CQ** - Featuring Mens Night with "Shower Dancers" and dance music at Jammin' Jo's, 2721 Broadway. Call (916) 682-4939.

**Gay & Lesbian Film Festival Committee Meeting** - 7 p.m. at Lambda Community Center, 20th & L Streets. Call (916) 443-7724.

**Lesbian Relations** - weekly psychotherapy group will be meeting Tuesday's 6:30 to 8 p.m.; cost is \$25/session. Contact Kate MacKenzie, LCSW, (916) 447-0350.

**Names Project** - Sacramento Chapter General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Church, 27th and L Streets. Guests welcome! Call (916) 484-5646.

### APRIL 20

**Being Gay Today** - Channel 17 every Thursday at 10 p.m., every Friday at 4 p.m. Repeats Saturday 10 a.m.

**Carlsberg Beer Party** - Jammin Jo's, 2721 Broadway, at 8 p.m. \$3.75 Pitchers of Carlsberg Beer. 457-7888.



Donna Theodore performs April 22 with the symphony - "The Garland Years."

### APRIL 21

**Institute For the Musical Arts** - presented by Jammin Jo's from 9 p.m. to midnight at 2721 Broadway. Starring June and Jean Millington, Laura Bowley, Kelly Conway, Diane Patterson, Amy Simpson, Joan Hawkins, Elaine Bolton and a capella trio "Copper Woman". \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. Tickets at Lioness Books.

**The Second Annual Lesbian Film Festival** - Four films will



the latest issue presents the BAR GIRLS Premiere Party April 19.

be viewed at the SACWNN program at Capitol Plaza Halls, 1025 9th Street, at 7:30 p.m. \$10 Subscribers, \$15 Non-subscribers and at Door. For Women over 21. (916) 451-8034.

### APRIL 22

**Gershwin, Garland and The Girls** - presented by Sacramento Men's Chorus at 8 p.m. City College Auditorium, 3835 Freeport Blvd. Tickets \$10 door, \$8 advance. Call (916) 444-5213.

**The Sacramento AIDS Foundation** - Gala benefit with the Sacramento Symphony. Tickets include dinner at A Shot of Class, a concert ticket and a post-reception which includes dessert, dancing to the big band sound and a martini tasting sponsored by Skyy Vodka following the concert at A Shot of Class, all for \$125 per person or \$90 for season ticket holders. Call (916) 448-2437.

**Bar Girls Party** - at Jammin Jo's, 2721 Broadway at 8 p.m. \$2 cover Complimentary Champagne and appetizers until 9:30 p.m. Ticket giveaways, Female shower dancers. Show starts at 9 p.m. \$10 donation.

### APRIL 25

**Helen Zia award-winning Journalist** - will be speaking at the Birthing Project/Family Preservation 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. 1006 21st St. Sponsored by The Asian Pacific Sisterhood, the Greater Sacramento Valley Chapter of the National Black Women's Health Project, Colorscape, and the Northern California Community Research Group at 8 p.m., 601 15th Street.

**Coronation '95** - The court of Shades, Blades & Soul and CGNIE Inc. present Anthology - music from Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow at Turn Verein Hall, 3349 J St. Doors open 6 p.m., Ball at 7 p.m. \$20. Call (916) 441-6579.

### APRIL 30

**The Lambda Letters Project** - will have its annual Comedy Auction at the Town House, 1517 21st Street at 3 p.m. Admission is free. Call (916) 965-6851.

### MAY 5

**Cinco De Mayo Fiesta** - at Ernesto's Mexican Restaurant with Live Music of "Los Romantico's" both at lunch & dinner, sidewalk seating now open!

**Bay Area's Comic Matina Bevis** - performing at Jammin Jo's, 2721 Broadway at 9 p.m. Cover \$5. (916) 457-7888.

### MAY 12

**Taurus Horoscope Party with Second Wind** - at Jammin Jo's, 2721 Broadway from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. \$4 cover. (916) 457-7888.

### MAY 14

**The Flirtations with special guest; Suede** - presented by The Lambda Community Center, 8 p.m. at the Crest Theater, 1013 K Street, Sacto. Call (916) 422-0185.

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

### APRIL 19

**Prime time with Joan Jett Blakk** - at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, 3583 16th Street at Market, San Francisco. Rockin' live entertainment talk show. 8 p.m. Admission \$10. For reservations, call (415) 861-7933. Show runs Wednesday through Sunday.

### APRIL 23

**Women's Health Conference** - Various workshops and panels including lesbian health issues, Asian immigrant women, incarcerated women with HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and more. UC Berkeley, North Gate Hall, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Call (415) 789-7694.

### MAY 6

**Closet ball 1995** - San Francisco's most outrageous annual coming out party, 8 p.m. at the elegant and historic "Bimbo's 365 Club". Call (415) 864-0673.

## CHICO

### MAY 6

**Butte County AIDS Walk** - Check-in 9 a.m. walk begins at 10 a.m. rain or shine in Bidwell Park. For more info call (916) 345-5393.



Dale Scholl Dance Art presents Obsessions.

### MAY 7

**Celebrity Chili Cook-Off and Beer Bust** - Be entertained by some of our own gay leaders cooking their favorite chili recipes in "DRAG!" This benefit for the '95 Lambda Freedom Fair will offer beer tasting from around the world and

If April showers bring May flowers, let's get our soap and towel ready kids! While we anxiously wait for the impending storm and the subsequent rainbow, the planets prepare to give us a few new energies for our lives' work. First, Sun in Aries with its unbridled heat and later, Sun in Taurus with its sensual beauty lead us into temptation. What can I say except, do what you will, planets...

#### ARIES

Imagine yourself in a fabulous, sporty new car, racing around hair pin turns and scattering pedestrians as you go. The best thing that you can do this April is to drive purposefully, with your eyes open and take full control of the vehicle. Don't even listen to the directions of others!

#### TAURUS

Make the world a better place by volunteering for Gay causes and doing good things for our community. Consider a little home entertaining or spend some time redecorating or refurbishing. For the fullest effect, be sure to plan pleasant home-based projects involving family and childhood friends.

#### GEMINI

The corporate chickens will come home to roost this month if you have allowed yourself to drift in your career. Friends give you a few new nifty ideas and push you in the right direction, if you only ask their advice. Meanwhile, you

have a golden opportunity to further the cause through writing or public speaking.

#### CANCER

You may prefer to stay close to home this month as travel plans become too difficult or expensive. Allow yourself a few delights throughout the month; Life is too short and friends are far too dear.

Gay Crabs can find plenty of reason to spoil themselves and others.

#### LEO

You practically catapult yourself into center stage, come what may. The trouble is that all this you you is not conducive to a we we we. Avoid upsetting the applecart of love on your way to fame and fortune. Ever hear the old saying, "it's lonely at the top?" ...Keep it in mind.

#### VIRGO

You can really make some headway in your quest to make a difference out there. This month you seem to have almost boundless energy and can really help those in need. Consider ways to reach out on a more global level to help many at once. In other words, take your act on the road!

#### LIBRA

April brings people in all forms, shapes and sizes to your door. Friendships, relationships and even sexual exploits are all highlighted and can be enjoyed im-

mensely. Can you handle all this company, dear? Try not to get names and faces confused!

#### SCORPIO

You can make significant headway in your professional goals. If I know you, this is what you have been plotting and working towards for quite a long time. You will also get some much needed support and encouragement from partners. Play the vulnerability game and let them take care of you for a change.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Oh, you can have fun now, but prepare for a new emphasis on work later this month. The good news is that your efforts on the job will pay off handsomely. It is also possible to gain a great deal from travel. April may be a busy month for both business and pleasure trips.

#### CAPRICORN

Communication will not go well, so be very careful of how and what you say. The planets are encouraging you to examine why you may not be moving ahead in your goals as fast as you'd like. Be proud of who you are. Maybe you are secretly undoing yourself.

# ZODIAC

by C. Lichtenstein

#### AQUARIUS

Relationships give us grounding and a sense of pride, so spend more time making partners feel special this month. Watch finances, though. You may squander money on foolishness. There is a lesson to be learned.

#### PISCES

You feel like a rat on a treadmill

this April. Don't worry, you can accomplish a great deal if you remain focused. You are terrific and must allow yourself to get sidetracked with nonsense ideas. Confidence is the key to success.

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# Circle of Friends Plays Music At Masako's

by P.J. Dunker

Playing to a packed house at Masako's, a group of five female musicians billing themselves as the Circle tour demonstrated a collective talent that marks them as the future of women's music.

The broad ranges of style and subject matter included in the talents of these women show they are much more than just a group of local wannabees. So remember these names: Kelly Conway, Amy Simpson, Joan Hawkins, Elaine Bolton and Diane Patterson.

Kelly Conway is the organizer, the real mover and shaker of the group, not just performing her own material and supplying a steady dose of humor, but also serving as booking agent and talent scout. She currently has a tape of her material available and is working on a second due out sometime in the next few months. Despite being originally from Detroit, Kelly claims bragging rights to being a recent escapee from "behind the Orange curtain" (Orange County) where she began organizing women's talent events. She organized Circle in

area, Amy is a very welcome addition to the Circle. Amy's wry wit is razor sharp. As an added bonus for her listeners, Amy frequently provides short monologues that more often than not uniformly amuse the audience. However, so powerful are her lyrics and haunting voice that when she begins to perform her music

mer until the space constraints of university life dictated the surrender of her drum set. Keep your eyes peeled for a soon-to-be-released CD from Amy.

Not a new name to most Sacramentans, Joan Hawkins has had a tape out since 1992. Joan has a remarkable talent for relating the ordinary and obvious in a way that makes people pay attention. Although she evokes laughter from her audience, her subject matter is mostly serious in nature. Irony is an intentional part of her method. Following a performance by Amy Simpson of an untitled song Amy introduced as her "homage to how much love rejection" (and which included numerous references to herself as "the world's biggest masochist"), Joan deftly sidestepped being upstaged by nonchalantly introducing her song with, "This song is a suicide song."

Although originally from Sarasota, Florida, Elaine Bolton is also a familiar name to Sacramento music goers. The fact that Elaine has always been a draw for audiences makes the strongest statement about her talent. Per

continued on 28



The Circle Group, from left: Kelly Conway, Amy Simpson, Joan Hawkins, Elaine Bolton and Diane Patterson.

what she refers to as the sharing tradition of women's music.

New to the area's arena of very talented musicians is Amy Simpson. Hailing from the Bay

the laughter quickly dies away to a muted silence. Amy taught herself how to play the guitar and in fact never thought of the guitar as her instrument of choice, but rather saw herself as a drum-

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"...a hilarious lesbian movie..." -Pendra, GIRLFRIENDS

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# April Showers...Annie, Elton and Sheena Offer Up Fragrant Bouquets

**D**o you ever hear a song that just knocks you for a loop, and you have to play it over and over in the car for days?

Annie Lennox' version of the Procol Harum classic "A Whiter Shade of Pale" had just that effect on me, with her restrained, yet evocative delivery over a minimalist synthesized harpsichord background. Taken from Lennox' latest disc, *Medusa*, this song and 9 other cover versions (including tunes by the likes of Al Green, Neil Young and the Clash) add to the formidable résumé of one of today's most sincere, and individual performers. While a few renditions offer nothing new (as in the case of Green's "Take Me to the River"), Lennox takes ownership of most of these tunes, turning the Clash'



Annie Lennox' *Medusa* solidifies her sterling reputation.

"Train in Vain" into a gospel/hip-hop workout, and Bob Marley's "Waiting in Vain" into a bubbling, torch song. Diva, indeed.

If you haven't O.D.'d on seeing Elton John cuddling Simba and winning armloads at the recent

# MUSIC

by Bill Peterson

weekly awards shows, then you're in luck, 'cause our favorite boy is back with a new album, *Made in England*, that is marked by a return to the feel of his early 70's work. Collaborating again with Bernie Taupin, the duo produce several new mid-tempo gems, highlighted by the optimistic single "Believe" and "House", which works around the tender territory of self-sufficiency "Cause this is my house/It belongs

to me/Inside my head/It's all that's left". But, when Elton tried to revisit the pulsing sound of "Philadelphia Freedom", as on the title tune and "Pain", the new material just falls short, sounding a bit tired. With Elton claiming a renewed interest in his music (after some spotty work in the past few years), *Made in England* marks yet another turning point in John's long career.

While we're on the subject of returning to roots, may I present you with *My Cherie* - new from The Scottish Lass With a Fiery Yet Airy Voice - Sheena Easton. After doing the Ronstadt-thing, by bouncing from Prince-ly Soul to Spanish-language and then to Standards (1993's impressive "No Strings"), Easton has worked quietly with a hit every so often, while building a reputation with her increasingly adept vocal skills.

1995 finds Easton going back to the mainstream pop that got her started. With the top producers (David Foster, Glen Ballard and Ric Wake) of feather-weight well-manicured adult pop, *My Cherie* shows Easton in peak vocal form on the ten tracks, which tend to disappoint in their homogeneity. The sweeping ballad "Crazy Love" and Sheena's collaboration with producer Narada Michael Walden on "Til Death Do Us Part" stand out, showing just how sublime Easton can be with the right material.

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# Coffee Talk with Bar Girls: Interview with Film's Writer-Producer

by Michael R. Gorman

The line began at the Castro Theater box office and wound down Castro Street and around the corner; the coffee shop there did a brisk business. Womyn for days! As we made our way to the press entrance, my son grumbled good naturedly, "Why do so many lesbians have to be so pretty?"

It was the San Francisco opening of the film "Bar Girls," billed on the posters as "finally, a romantic comedy without men!" The film opens this month in Sacramento, complete with an opening party at Faces, sponsored by Faces and the latest issue.

As always at the Castro, the film was preceded by a live performance on the Wurlitzer Organ. This gave me a great opportunity to talk to my kid, Mack, about the early days of film. His

first time in the Castro Theater, he kept looking at the art deco chandelier above us and talking about The Phantom of the Opera. The chandelier never came down, but as the lights did, a new short film advertising the San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival was tested. It showed Lucy and Ricky (male and female drag performers) discussing the upcoming festival.

It was a night for test cases. "Bar Girls" is being distributed by Orion Pictures, but, as the producer/writer and one of the lead actors told the Latest Issue the following day, most of Hollywood is taking a wait-and-see attitude. If the reaction of the audience at the Castro Theater was any indication, the agents who have thus far refused to sign up actors from this major release had better grab their little pens and race for a contract.

My son's comment about pretty lesbians proved timely, because



Nancy Allison Wolfe and Liza D'Agostino star in "Bar Girls."

the film made no apologies about presenting a lot of very beautiful, decidedly unsterotypical lesbians. The first time aspiring actress Rachel (played by Liza D'Agostino, pronounced Leeza, thank you) walks past Loretta (Nancy Allison Wolfe), who is about to leave the bar, I thought half the audience was going to stand up and try to enter the bar, too (My son included).

Any gay woman, and not a few gay men, who don't recognize themselves in this film are obviously recent immigrants from another planet. The groans and chuckles of recognition began early in the film and lasted throughout. The intertwining of the evolving relationships be-

tween the ex's was great fun.

"Bar Girls" was written as a kind of gift to the lesbian community. Producer/Writer Laura Hoffman told the Latest Issue that early on in the show's initial stage incarnation, she would circulate through the bars, passing out flyers, and saying, "I wrote this for you guys. The least you can do is come and see it."

Describing her background during a lunch interview at the Patio Cafe, Hoffman said, "I was mostly a career student... and I made a career out of relationships. I started writing ten years ago, journals mostly. Journals are great, a good way to learn how to write. That's how I developed my voice. After that, I was primarily a poet. I read a lot in Los Angeles. Universities, coffee houses, bookstores. Anywhere they'd let me read. I saw a bad play one day. I was with Liza, and I said, 'I can do better than that,'

and she said, 'Why don't you? I started writing the play. I had to break out of a relationship was in to finish it.'

(So there's a place for bad art Motivation.)

"Oh absolutely!"

Of her role as a producer, Hoffman said, "I purged myself of the pain finally, and there was, a play. I thought, 'I can't just be another schmuck walking around LA with an unproduced play.' So I decided to put it up. I found Marita Giovanni (Producer/Director), through Liz actually.

"I raised money in bars, I sold shares. The lesbian community backed it. I had some money I had gotten through an inheritance. It wasn't a lot. I used to produce concerts in San Luis Obispo when I was in college, so I had some experience. The play was a lot of work. I did everything, took tickets at the door, sold concessions, did publicity. It really started taking off after the first month."

It was director Giovanni who first visualized the play as a film. "As soon as the play was done, I wrote the screenplay in a month," recalled Hoffman. "I decided not to put any boundaries on it. I'm just going to go nuts and if something's too weird, we can cut it down later." That's how I came up with the Troll stuff and Heavy Myrtle." (I loved the Troll stuff!) "I'm glad you liked the troll stuff."

The wide-ranging and quirky characters are all drawn from people Hoffman has known. She loved writing them and claims she only produced the film in order

continued on 28

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# Two New Films Featuring a Queer Son, Straight Dad And A Gay 'Priest'

**A**nyone in or out of the closet should run to see "Priest", an amazing new drama about a gay clergyman who hides the truth about himself and experiences a crisis in faith. For those who survived a Catholic upbringing, like I did, the movie is a revelation.

the British film, which already conservative Roman Catholics are up in arms, features two priests who have broken their vows of celibacy and includes a controversial storyline involving confession of incest. Linus Roache stars, in an extraordinary performance, as Father Greg, who wrestles both with repressed homosexuality and his own faith in God.

At the start of the film we find Father Greg, a handsome, idealistic, young priest assigned to a small, new parish. He soon discovers that the parish pastor, Mathew, is sexually involved with their housekeeper and that the two are essentially 'married'. It's not long before Father Greg learns that one of his students is molested by her father, leading to a painful debate about whether to break the sanctity of confession in order to end the girl's suffering.

"Priest", directed by a woman named Antonia Bird, takes on difficult issues including religion and sexuality, and it doesn't cop on any of them. When Father Greg removes his collar and is on a black leather jacket to use a gay bar in Liverpool, the resulting love scene with the man picks up comes as quite a shock.

Although the movie's musical

score is somewhat obnoxious, the script and, especially, the performances are first-rate. Linus Roache carries the film with a complex portrayal of a tortured soul who desperately wants to reconcile his faith in God with his homosexuality. When he screams at the figure of Jesus on his wall, "Do something!", you're riveted to your seat.

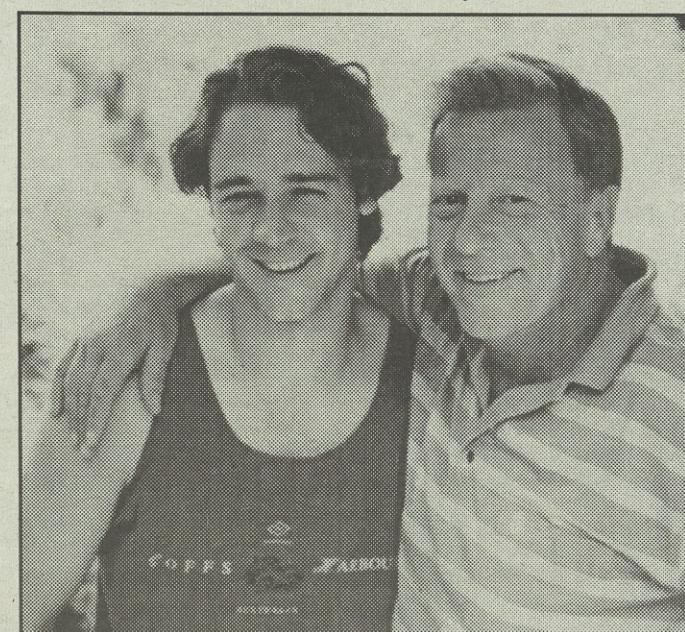
The film concludes with a surprise so perfect you realize it couldn't have ended any other way. The movie is surprisingly progressive in its views on faith and morality, but true Christians shouldn't be offended -- the message is one of unconditional love.

It's hard enough to find an entertaining movie these days. But one that actually makes you think? "Priest" moved me to tears.

## THE SUM OF US

Another movie about unconditional love, this time a comedy about a gay man and his straight dad, is coming soon to Sacramento. "The Sum Of Us", from Australia, stars Russell Crowe as Jeff, a gay plumber, and Jack Thompson as Harry, his straight father.

The two men live together in Sydney, and the thing that makes their relationship, and the movie,



"The Sum of Us" Father and Son, Harry & Jeff - Looking for true love.

unique is that Harry is totally accepting of his son's lifestyle. He even goes to the extreme of welcoming Jeff's dates into their home, offering them a beer, and making sure they understand the concept of safe sex.

The movie is a welcome alternative to the heavy subject matter of many gay films -- it never takes itself seriously, and we're not meant to either. In fact, the actors frequently speak directly to the screen in asides that, although funny, grow somewhat tiresome.

The best thing about the film is the sweet and sexy performance Russell Crowe gives as Jeff, a romantic who's somewhat of a misfit in the gay world. He isn't afraid to be vulnerable and makes it clear that he's had his

heart broken by men afraid of commitment. He hopes he has found love with his new boyfriend, a gardener named Greg.

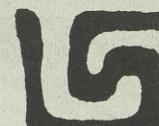
Less successful is the broad performance given by Jack Thompson as the father, Harry. Harry is the kind of guy who tells bad jokes when company comes over, and his son is supposed to be somewhat embarrassed of him. Still, Thompson's gay-positive energy is a little forced, and his character a bit one-dimensional.

The movie is well-worth seeing for Russell Crowe's funny performance as Jeff and for a moving sub-plot about his grandmother, who, years earlier, had taken a lesbian lover after Harry's dad had died. The flashback where the two old women are separated is heartbreaking and adds earthiness to a movie that is frequently up in the clouds.

"The Sum Of Us" is a sunny, gay fantasy about the relationship many of us would like to have with our fathers.

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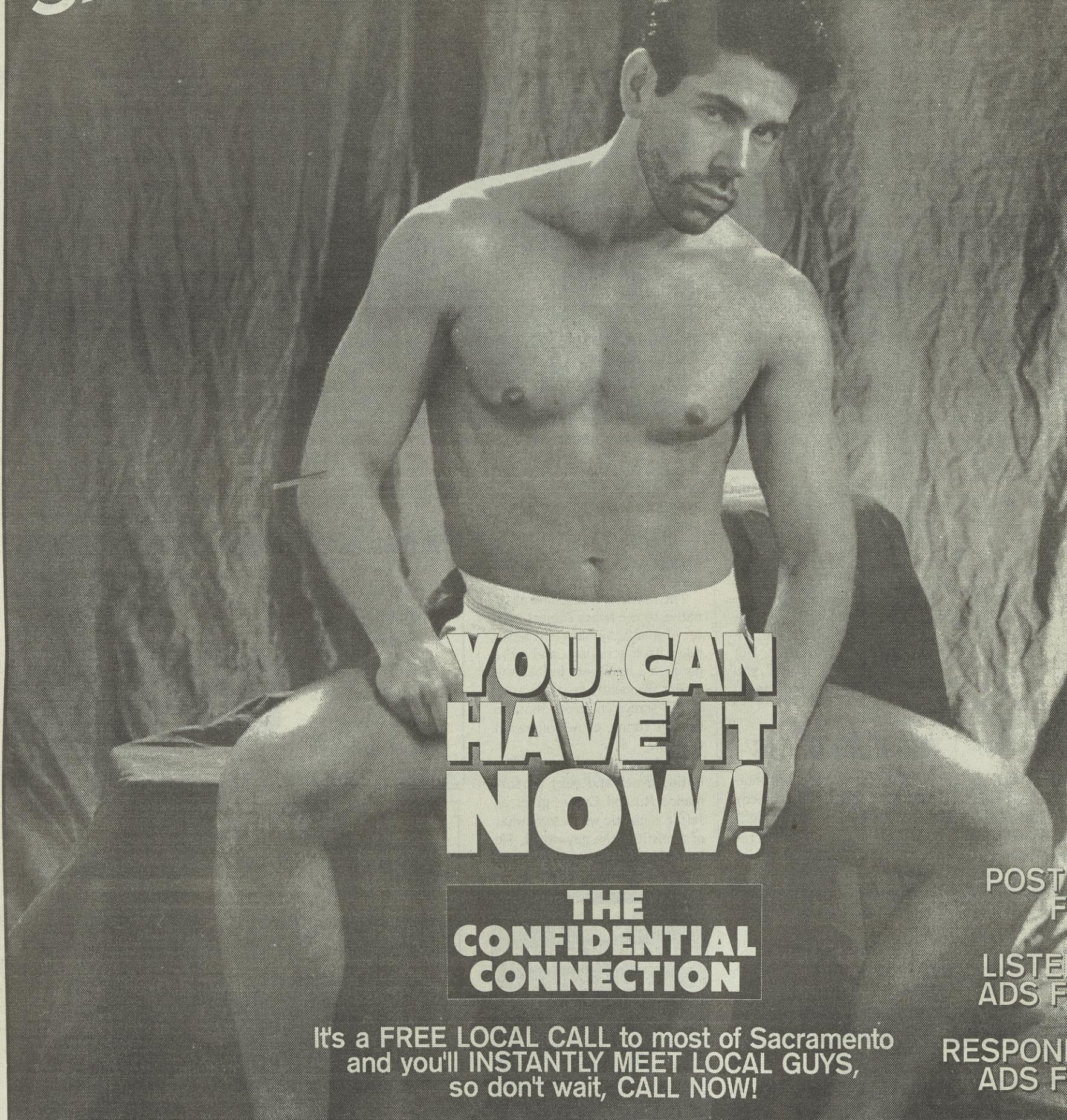
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by Chris Narloch

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MANFINDER™

Sacto UC DAVIS: Patrick, UC Davis grad, working hard, iso someone into same things, international aspirations, and avoiding the bar scenes as much as possible- 236599

Lake Tahoe SCULPTOR: Matt, Sculptor, gd size gallery, int in meeting men younger than me 35 men in their 20s, smaller than me 5'11, 200 hairy, top man, oral too, want to meet a decent guy, wants to share a lot of things, even being a sculptor- 236954

Sacto TAHOE HAIRY TOP: Matt, 5'10, 220 hairy top like to be oral, lkg for a taller/younger man, 35 lkg for 20s, sculptor, looking for someone creative, if ur lvg message- 236954

Sacramento IN OR OUTDOOR FUN: AD large BM, 39, brn/hzl, int in meeting guys 35-45 for fun in or out doors, short or long term rel- 237182

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- 2) To record your FREE Sacramento Area Personal ad Call: 1-800-546-MENN (We'll print it here)
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Due to our large volume of calls, if you can't get thru, simply try your call later.

Questions Call: 1-415-281-3183

Sacramento CRUISE ACTION: Bill, 5'11, iso must hairy chest and legs 175 work out but want to find some cruise action, like to get together, give me a call - 27571

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Figure out what you want to say before calling in. Write down what you want to say. Keep it short and simple. Just describe yourself and what you're looking for. Our computerized system will walk you through the rest. Have a pen ready to write down your box number.

Sacramento SEX SLAVE: Tom, 5'9, 175, brn/blu athl ski instr, masc, lkg for dom man men who want a boy to order around, if then I will be your sex slave, I'll do anything, punish me and make me do it! assume the role of master I'm yours! 2352

Sacramento CRUISE AREAS? Bill, 5'11, brn/blu hairy chest, work out int in meeting guys who work out too, int in cruise action in the area, Reno area, lv a message- 27571

Visalia HORNY PHONE FUN: one guy that's real horny looking for some hot talk over the phone, like to meet up in person, lv a message- 235115

Sonora Co. CABIN IN THE WOODS: Kevin, 33 WM looking to meet another guy int in outdoor activities, live on a cabin on two acres building a monong rel, if ur looking for a good life, give me a call- 242602

Stockton BOWLING AND CAMPING: John, 23, single WM brn/blu 5'6, independent, iso friends any race, ages 22-29 like bowling camping, going the beach give me a call and we can get 235668

Sonora Co. OUTDOORS KINDA GUY: Kevin, looking to meet a gdkg outdoors type of guy to build friendship poss rel- looking to share a friendship, rel, give me a call- 242602

Monterey I'VE BEEN A BAD BOY! Thumper, 48, good body nice looking like to do good safe things, like to get spanked, like a little punishment, also like a lot of fun, give me a call- 236332

Salinas SILVER GREY HAIR: Rod, 49, 6', 160, silver grey hair, iso friends with gay men in the area north to SF, and south to SD - enjoy travelling 236378

Sacramento LOOKING FOR A BIG TOP: GWM 30 iso well endowed top for fun, any race age, Stan- 28588

Sacramento STUDY COWBOYS: Kinda new to this, want to meet some other study cowboys 30-40 masc only, if ur int give me a call- 28721

Chico CHICO GUYS: GWM 21 iso GM in the area for friendship poss rel, top male- give me a call- Shane- 28865

Sacramento HAIRY BLONDE: Brian, 27, WM 6', blnd/blu 200 hairy guy iso someone to get together with for poss rel- 28956

Sacramento SHARE SOME LAUGHS: guys guy iso someone good lkg good spirited to share laughs and have some fun- 29337

Truckee AVID SKIER: Jeff, athl outgoing fit, like to party looking to improve my social life 36 blnd/blu 160, avid skier, outdoors, like to meet w/sim int for good times, poss rel- 29570

Citrus Hts SALT AND PEPPER HAIR: Ken, 43, male, 6', 160, long salt and pepper hair with mustache, like to meet some guys in the area, like to get together and see what happens, give me a call- 231372

Mt. Shasta REACH OUT: Mike, 6'1 blnd blu, looking to reach out and touch someone lv a message- 230607

Sacramento VERSATILE TOP: Bob, early 30s versatile top in the area, looking to meet guys to play and party sorta new to the area- 230620

Sacramento ENDOWED MEN: Jim, looking for some older well end'd men to have fun with, let's get together 231013

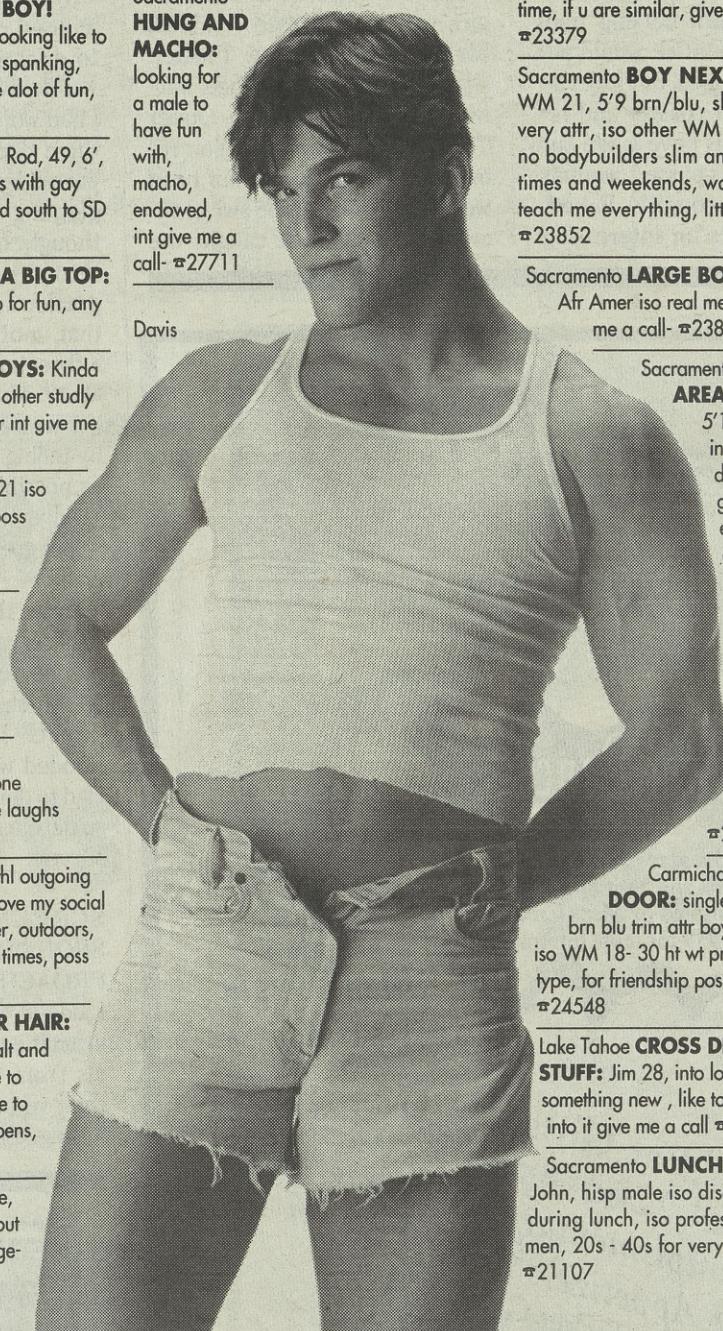
Modesto SCOTT 24 Y/O 5'11 160 brnbrn iso guys 18-30 give me a call- 265533

Auburn CONSTRUCTION TYPES: John, like to meet guys pref const types and young 20-35 give me a call- 25706

Sacramento MARRIED BI CURIOUS: Greg 24 WM 5'9 160, married bi curious looking for my first time mid town area masc, iso 20-30 around the same build, very discreet, lv a message 26908

Sacramento HUNG AND MACHO: looking for a male to have fun with, macho, endowed, int give me a call- 27711

Davis



ORAL EXPERT: hoping to meet disc men who will lay back and appr my oral skills, who will appreciate my talents call me- 27901

Sacto QUIET EVENINGS: Steven 35 6'1 175 brn/ beard must iso someone for fun in/ out of doors, music and a quiet eve at home with a movie, sounds int give me a call 27289

Citrus Heights ANYONE FOR A GOOD TIME? Armando 31 HM, looking to meet new friends, anyone int in having a good time give me a call- 28205

Sacramento ONE OR MORE: would like to meet one or more guys for regular get togethers, 40 6' 165, and enjoy movies and guy stuff thanks- 28387

Sacramento TALL GUY SEEKS SAME: Tony, 38, single, tall like to have a good time, if u are similar, give me a call- 23379

Sacramento BOY NEXT DOOR: Brett WM 21, 5'9 brn/blu, slim built, cln cut, very attr, iso other WM under 30, slim no bodybuilders slim and cute for good times and weekends, want someone to teach me everything, little to no bdy hair- 23852

Sacramento LARGE BOTTOM MALE, 24 Afr Amer iso real men in the area give me a call- 23862

Sacramento DOWNTOWN AREA: Michael, 35 WM 5'10 170, brn/blu int in meeting BM in the downtown area for good time maybe even rel, gdkg good shpe, int in hearing frm you- 21068

Sacramento SATISFY ME! Large round btm BM subm iso real man to satisfy him give me a call- 23862

Carmichael BOY NEXT DOOR: single WM 30 5'9 160, brn blu trim attr boy next door type, iso WM 18-30 ht wt prop boy next door type, for friendship poss rel, local only- 24548

Lake Tahoe CROSS DRESSING AND STUFF: Jim 28, into looking for guys into something new, like to try cd and stuff, into it give me a call 24582

Sacramento LUNCHTIME FUN: John, hisp male iso discreet encounters during lunch, iso professional endowed men, 20s - 40s for very well endowed- 21107

Sacramento TREAT ME LIKE A BABY: Jim, looking for a GWM or couples to be my daddy, like dressing up as a baby and treated like one, iso guys blnd blu wears 501, like sports, like outdoors, hope to hear from someone- 21642

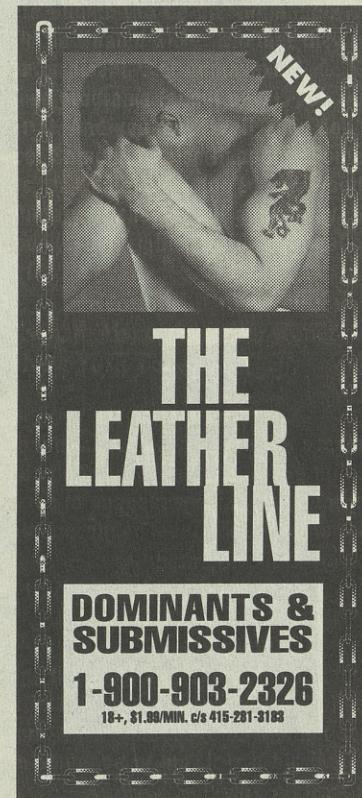


Sacramento TV OR TS: SWM looking for passable TVs or TS, ask for Greg- 1824

Sacramento BI WM Michael, 35 WM bi, gdkg, int in meeting bm 25-45 22138

Sacramento ONCE OR TWICE OR MORE: John, btm gy iso guys to get together with either just one time dates or long term lkg for 18-28 give me a call 3023

Sacramento ON THE LIVING ROOM FLOOR: GWC 37 and 22 like to meet other men or couples for fun in or out of the bedroom- 22250



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# Off the Edge

by Stacy Selmants

**S**pring is here; you are queer. And dateless. After whining uncontrollably to all your married friends, ("Do you KNOW what my EverReady battery bill is every month?") a simple solution presents itself: let your fingers do the walking. Yes, troll through the personals. Truly, boys and girls, they actually DO work.

In another completely unselfish act for the benefit of you readers (it's SO difficult being the Mother Teresa of the lavender set!) we browsed the local papers on your behalf and oh-so-scientifically field tested the personal ad phenomenon. Provided you use some common sense, we can assure you that the water is warm and safe to swim in.

Five years ago I answered an

ad which culminated in a four-year relationship with a wonderful woman. Okay, at the bitter (and I do mean bitter) end our friends formed a betting pool over whether gunfire would actually be exchanged, but love can be a cruel roller coaster and recently both of us have made our peace. Time has passed, wounds have been thoroughly licked, (which presents an interesting

## Thrilling! Chilling! Fulfilling Personals Ads: The Sequel

answer to that nagging question: what to do on the first date? "I've got these wounds that need licking, babe. Wanna help?" It was time to try again.

### THE APPROACH: TO WRITE OR RESPOND?

Responding to an ad is easier, and less time consuming than writing one and screening all the responses. However, for those of you tops (and we know who we are, don't we?) out there, if you place the ad you have more control over the outcome of the experience. In the spirit of the experiment, I responded to a couple of ads.

**EXPERIMENT ONE:** Cute, fun girl, with a professed fondness for cold beer and hot Twister. Alas, she was still a trainee, having only embraced the Queer Thing the year before. You remember that period? Your head would do a 360 degree swivel every time your nose caught the

alluring scent of a cute babe? Just didn't have the energy to compete with a cast of thousands. But since we've both found steady dates more suited to us, when we socially collide we exchange friendly hugs and compare quick notes on how things are going. Not a bad experience, over all.

**EXPERIMENT TWO:** Another example of how absurdly small this little burg is. Made the mistake of leaving a message before she had left her meet-and-greet response on the voice mail, which would have given me a clue to her identity. She responded. Pant. Pant. Pant. (Okay, I admit it; I give GREAT phone.) Was originally amused -- in a sick ironic way -- to discover the ad placer was a well-known local figure for whom I had worked as a writer and editor a decade before, where we parted less than amicably. After giggling uncontrollably at the thought of us ever being romantically involved, I tried to bow out graciously. Would have left it at that, until she called back and left a threatening, growling message about what she would do to me if I wrote about it. I responded by telling as many chatty queens as possible about the exchange. (I love that community karma. What goes around, comes around, babe.)

After these less than successful forays, the control queen in me took over and I composed an ad which was entertaining, yet direct. I was surprised to be flooded with over 40 responses. Had to devise a screening process, so developed the following phone survey:

### SCREENING YOUR RESPONSES: THE SURVEY APPROACH

I judged my respondents -- after evaluating their basic literacy levels from their voice mail -- by their verbal responses to the following, all-important questions:

1) Have you ever been incarcerated? If so, is it true what they say about prison matrons?

2) Do you vote? In this country Republican? (The die-hard publicans didn't take it well when informed of my "I date Fascists" rule. Oh, well.)

3) How do you feel about country music? [a] Way too many vowels; not enough consonants. Country music is my life. [b] Stepping is more fun than two-stepping. [c] I hate it! It makes me bleed internally.

4) DEBUTANTE RULE #23: can wear white shoes AFTER Labor Day [a] Never. [b] In a remote spots in Appalachia. Only if they're Nikes.

5) BONUS QUESTION: Will you dance, do you insist on leading? [a] I always lead, even a path straight to hell. [b] Dignity is a beautiful thing. I like to take turns. [c] I never lead...because YOU'RE so much better at it.

The results: After screening the Republicans, the aerobic instructors, and the totally self-involved, I had coffee with a dozen women. Many were nice, attractive and a good way to kill an hour -- but no magic. (A method of no more disappointing than having around a dance floor giving "come hither" looks to seemingly cute women who may have intellectual responsiveness of a carrot.) Had one apparently date with an enjoyable woman who never called back. (Learn to take rejection personally. Then I got lucky. (Oh, get your little minds out of the gutter. Yep. Found one who is bright, funny, and great-looking. After a long strategic search, I'm happy Easter bunny. So for those of you who are single and lonely -- try it, you might like it. (Those respondents who may be reading this and did not make the final cut, thanks for playing, we have some lovely parting gifts!)

After these less than successful forays, the control queen in me took over and I composed an ad which was entertaining, yet direct. I was surprised to be flooded with over 40 responses. Had to devise a screening process, so developed the following phone survey:

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Spring is busting out all over, and my bust is springing--you can see it all at CGNIE's annual Coronation at the end of April... by the way, if April showers bring May flowers, I say forget the rain and just buy me a dozen roses (long-stem, natch).

Advertisements in the Coronation program are an inexpensive (make that cheap!) and productive way of getting your name or business known in the gay community. Call Co-Emperor Jim @ 441-6579 for details. The Lambda Freedom Fair program is another "Cheap" place to have your business or name seen. Call Michael Yahner at 454-9608 for details. Deadline is May 1st.

"Festival de la Familia", a Sacramento celebration of Latin American people and culture provides a great opportunity for fun, entertainment and people-watching on April 30th. The streets of Old Sac and the Downtown Plaza will be filled with booths selling food and crafts, and an estimated 100,000 bodies. For more information, call Steve @ 552-5252, extension 4127.

Of course, if you're cruising Oldtown that Sunday, you certainly will be wrecked from all the festivities the previous evening. Yes, Coronation '95, the dress-up affair of the season, will take place Saturday, April 29th at Turn Verein Hall on J Street. It's great fun, especially if you've never seen GOOD drag...

Freddy Palmer of Capital Quarterly wants to thank everyone who attended the Riverboat party last month. The March Monster prevented the boat from leaving the pier, but the 100+ guests made the best of the stormy weather.

Club CQ, Wednesday nights at Jammin' Jo's (2721 B'dway), is the only Men's Night in town that

features 'shower dancers'--hot strip performances that start at 9PM. Jo's "First Annual Golf Tournament" which was a great success. Half of the proceeds raised that day go to Lambda's H.E.A.L. (Health, Education and Awareness for Lesbians) program.

\*The "Second Saturday" art walk is still a hot item in town, and Barbetta's Beads and Art has a group show called "Figure and Face" thru April 30 at their gallery, 2316 J Street.

Happy Birthday to Terry Heitman, 31 years old on April 5th.

Don't forget to cast your ballot for Emperor and Empress at

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The Wizard

by Stephanie Carlisle

the Lambda Center on Saturday, the 22nd. Voting is open to all, so long as you have an ID. Polls stay open all day.

The Freedom Fair pancake breakfast at FACES March 19 was a howling success. I was seated next to a bevy of boys from the Capital City Squares, a local dancing club. They want all my readers to know that new members will be welcomed soon.

The fabulous Flirtations will perform in concert at the Crest on Mother's Day, the 14th of May at 8PM. Plans are being made for a 'high-rollers' cocktail reception earlier in the evening. Contact Larry Hoover @ 753-0424 (in Davis).

The NAMES Project is preparing a Quilt exhibit at the Whole Earth Festival at U C Davis, scheduled for May 12-14. Volunteers are currently being sought to assist with the display. Please contact Butch Ford @ 484-5646 to sign up. They will also exhibit at the Lambda Free-

dom Fair as well.

The Sacramento International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival has named Michael Walker as this years director. Their next meeting is April 19th at the Lambda Center. Call 443-7724 if you'd like to help with this worthy project.

Rumor has it that gay body-builders Bob & Rod Jackson-Paris will be making a Sacramento appearance in late summer. I know y'all will pay close attention for further details.

OOOPS... If you planned a

quick trip to Great America for Pride Friday on "April 12th", well...you're ok, 'cause it will actually happen on MAY 12th plus bring your bathing suit, stay the weekend and go to "Pride Sunday" at Raging Waters. Call 800-473-8658 for details.

Come on by and visit our new digs at 26th and Capitol. The Latest Issue has a box with my name on it for all your gossip. Keep it clean, kids!

P.S. Thanx for the dress, Ginger-CIAO.

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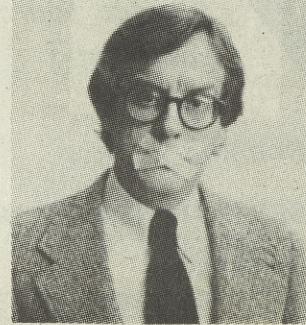
Guinness)

## BAR GIRLS

*continued from 22*  
to see that it was made.

"Bar Girls" is Liza D'Agostino's first feature film role. She is still a little amazed by the directions her life is taking, traveling to film festivals around the world. She's a girl from the Bronx. "I lived there until I was . . . ready to not live there anymore. I studied in New York at the Lee Strasburg Institute. Then I moved to LA four or five years ago. I got work right away because I had a look that stood out. Everyone was blonde and blue-eyed. I'm a half-Puerto Rican, Italian, Polish, Jew."

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joked, "Michael Harris (Noah in the film) told me a trick. If you get half-way through your line, and it's not going the way you want it to, just flub it, and they can't use it. They have to do another take."

The closeness of the actors in "Bar Girls" has led to a bit of controversy that follows them from interview to interview. Inevitably the media people want to know if the actors are lesbian or not. Although she admits to being a lot like her character Rachel, and speaks affectionately of her actor ex-husband, Liza will not reveal her own sexuality.

"That's just the stance we're taking right now. There were some straight actors in the film, and there were some gay actors in the film. We all want to work. A lot. Unfortunately we are working in a very homophobic industry. To quote a line from the

movie, 'Lesbians are hot right now,' but there is still a stigma. Teeny steps, baby steps, are being taken [in Hollywood] but it will be a few years. Lauran would love all the actors who are gay to come out because she's very out herself, but she totally understands where we're coming from and respects that."

## MASAKO

*continued from 20*

haps the best guitarist of the bunch, she also orchestrates a variety of intonations with her voice. Elaine provided the high energy songs of the night and thus provided a balance to the somber emotional tone of the group's lyrics and music.

Rounding out the Circle was Diane Patterson who recently

won a SAMMIE. Diane's lyrics steered a more worldly course with topics addressing a broader theme than the others, whose focus tended toward the personal struggle.

## FAIRIES

*continued from 13*

Snake, Jeffrey's partner concurred, "In the Radical Fairies there is no spiritual hierarchy. You can do whatever you want to do as long as it doesn't involve physical violence. Verbal violence is sometimes accepted when someone is working through things, but it is usually discouraged. But the only no-no at a fairy gathering is physical violence."

"The Fairies are a pagan organization, celebrating nature, the goddess/Earth Mother/Gaia. There are a lot of Celtic roots, a bit of Wicca," Diamond Heart continued.

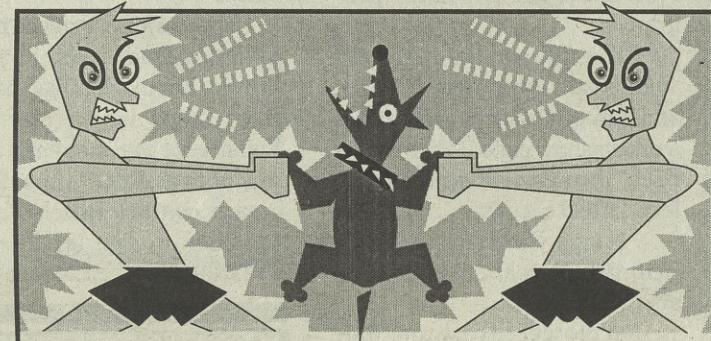
"But not all Fairies are pagan," Snake clarified. "There are some priests and ministers who attend gatherings. They seem to balance the differences in belief."

Radical Fairies meet in small local groups called "Fairie Circles" and in larger meetings of up to hundreds called "Fairie Gatherings." The Gatherings take place in isolated rural retreats. Describing his first Gathering, Snake told the Latest Issue, "I wanted to see some guys in dresses. I went. It was a life-changing event. It was like finding your tribe after you've been lost all your life."

Brendan Kearney (his fairie name is Stitch), a Sacramentan who has just recently begun attending fairie events, described the Gatherings: "There isn't a lot of structure. At the lodge there was a wall with flyers announcing different circles. You sign your name if you're interested. There were drumming circles, massage circles, sex circles.

Stitch was particularly impressed with the open, nonjudgmental attitude of the fairies. "You know those people you meet who have dealt with their inside pain and have come out of it okay? How they are so open and understanding when other people are going through it? Now imagine a whole camp of men like that. Open. Caring. Listening. That's the Radical Fairies. I love it."

The Radical Fairies sponsor information lines for those interested in learning about or attending their circles and gatherings. The number for Northern California is 415-626-3369. The computer board number is 415-861-4221.



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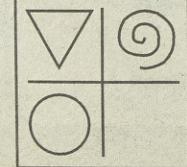
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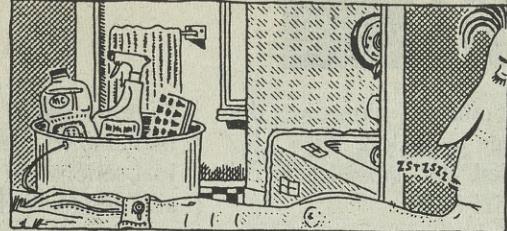


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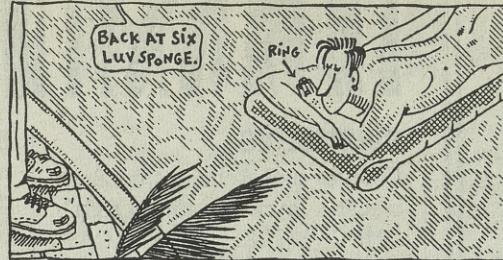
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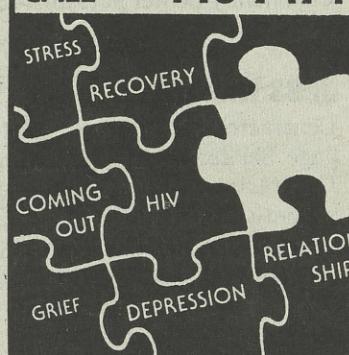
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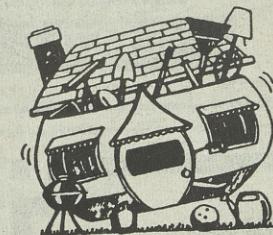
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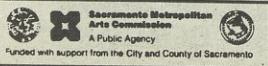
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925-3549.

## Hair

BANGS, 609 23rd Street,  
Sacramento. (916) 447-4323.

Trendsetters Hair & Tanning, 1406  
28th Street, Sacramento. (916)  
455-0514.

## Health

Planned Parenthood is for  
everyone: HIV tests, STD checks,  
men & women. Call (916) 446-  
5037 for locations.

U.S.A. Bidet, 9647 Folsom Blvd.  
#322, Rancho Cordova. (916) 368-  
6926.

## Hypnotherapy

Laurie Lewis, CCHT, General,  
medical, child abuse and  
molestation survivors. Elk Grove  
and So. Sacramento. (916) 393-  
9932.

## Home Loans

Banker's Mortgage, Michelle  
Poirier 863-3774, (916) 863-3793,  
Rick Oldham 863-3788.

Bay Residential Mortgage, Cynthia  
Jannson, (916) 328-8898.

River Valley Mortgage, 106 K  
Street, (916) 325-5588.

James Quast, American Savings  
Bank, 5801 Sunrise Blvd., (916)  
863-2750.

## Home Repair

Landpark Handyman, quality  
repairs and home improvements.  
(916) 447-4747.

## Insurance

Allstate Insurance, Dan Huffman  
agent. Home/Auto/Life. (916) 721-  
9339.

## Leather

Leather Masters, 969 Park  
Avenue, San Jose. (408) 293-  
7660.

## Martial Arts

Sacramento Bushido Kai, (916)  
444-5977.

## Massage

Sean LeVahn, massage by  
appointment. (916) 448-7518.

Jan Trifiro, CMT, Professional,  
therapeutic massage. (916) 393-  
9932.

## Muffins

Muffins Etc., 5635 H Street,  
Sacramento. (916) 452-1829.

## Music Instruction

Piano/Keyboard lessons for busy  
adults. Misty Johnstone (916) 489-  
8144.

## Optometrist

Dr. Cameron Yee, 6407 Riverside  
Blvd. Sacramento. (916) 395-0673.

## Organizations

Lambda Community Center, 1931  
L Street, (916) 442-0185.

Positive Gourmet, food services for  
people with HIV and AIDS. P.O.  
Box 160845, Sacramento, 95816.  
(916) 851-9850.

Sacramento Area Career Women's  
Network (SACWN) (916) 451-  
8034.

## Pets & Fish

Animal Housecall Service, Dr.  
Nancy Weagly, Veterinarian. (916)  
456-0967.

## Photography

Julia Richardson, Television,  
film, print, portraits, weddings.  
Make-up artist & stylist. By appt.  
(916) 925-7434.

## Printing

Sacramento Quick Print, 2612 J  
Street, Sacramento. (916) 442-  
5615.

## Real Estate

Comeaux Realty, Debbie Comeaux  
broker. (916) 351-1983.

Rainbow Real Estate Professionals  
(916) 535-7867.

Bill Spencer, Prudential-California  
Realty, (916) 453-1500, 399-  
9733(h).

## Restaurants

Cornerstone, 2330 J Street,  
Sacramento. (916) 441-0948.

Ernesto's, 16th and S Streets,  
Sacramento. (916) 441-5850.

Hamburger Mary's, 16th and J  
Streets. (916) 441-4340.

Masako's, 2115 J Street, Suite  
101, Sacramento. (916) 448-1717.

Pescado's, 2801 P Street and their  
new store at 2610 Fair Oaks Blvd.  
(916) 452-7237 and 483-FISH.

## Taxes

Gail Gibson, full business  
services, tax preparation,

bookkeeping. (916) 683-2221.

Marsha Oritt, Consolidated  
Investment Services, Inc. (916)  
965-5437 or 672-2439.

Whitney and Killick, 2321 Lloyd  
Lane, Sacramento. (916) 486-  
8985.

## Travel

Patterson Travel, Shannon Davis  
agent. 1107 21st street,  
Sacramento. (916) 441-1526, (800)  
283-2772.

Red Shoes Travel, 3241 Folsom  
Blvd. Sacramento. (916) 454-4201.

Sports Leisure Travel, 9527-A  
Folsom Blvd. Sacramento. (916)  
361-2051.

## Tree Service

Complete Tree Service, Greg Law.  
Trimming, pruning, shaping,  
complete removal, residential and  
commercial. (916) 991-1144.

## Window

Visions, Mobile Showroom  
available by appointment. (916)  
451-6757.

# Russian River

## Bars

Rainbow Cattle Company, 16220  
Main Street, Guerneville. (707) 869-  
0206.

## Real Estate

Douglas Bohling, Vista Realty,  
(707) 522-8336.

## Resorts

Russian River Resort, 16390 Fourth  
Street, Guerneville. (707) 869-0691.

The Willows, 15905 River Road,  
Guerneville. (800) 953-2828.

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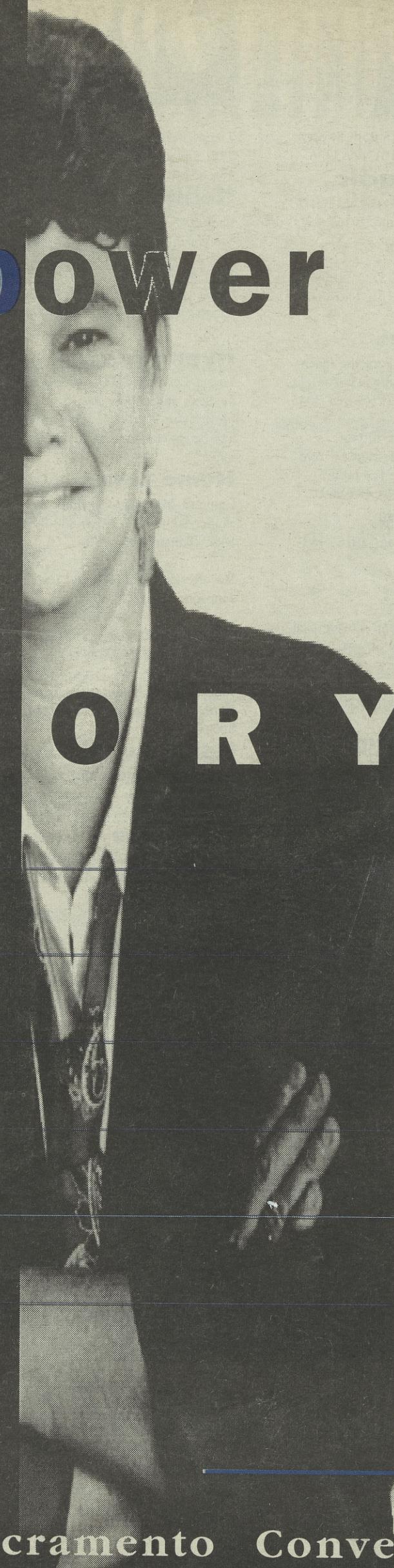
Issue

celebrating  
the power of

# VI C T O R Y

This is your opportunity to make a difference. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard ... loudly, clearly, unequivocally. This is your opportunity to celebrate the power of victory: The Seventh Annual CAP/PAC Dinner & Auction, June 3, 1995, 6:00 pm, Sacramento Convention Center. The evening's events will include the now-famous silent and live auctions, a very special dinner, the comedy of emcee Danny Williams and highly honored keynote speaker California State Assemblymember Sheila James Kuehl, the first openly lesbian member of California's legislature. Take this opportunity to show your true colors: Dinner tickets are \$85 each, tables of 8 are \$680, tables of 10 are \$850; join in the fun by donating an auction item (or items); purchase advertising in the Souvenir Dinner Program or Auction Insert. Please direct auction and advertising questions to

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California State Assemblymember  
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